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ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	3
II. UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE	5 - 49	4
III. UNITED NATIONS MINE-ACTION PROGRAMMES: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH	50 - 79	12
A. Elements of mine-action programmes	54 - 74	13
1. Creation of a national capacity	56 - 63	14
2. Mine surveys	64 - 66	15
3. Education and training in mine awareness	67 - 70	16
4. Treatment and rehabilitation of land-mine victims	71 - 74	17
B. Coordination of activities	75 - 79	18

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CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
IV. RESOURCES FOR UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES	80 - 99	19
A. Consolidated inter-agency appeal process	82	19
B. Assessed peace-keeping contributions	83	19
C. Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance	84 - 90	20
D. De-mining standby capacity	91 - 99	21
V. ACTIONS FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION	100 - 108	23
VI. CONCLUSION	109 - 120	25

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/215, entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", by consensus on 23 December 1994. In the resolution the Assembly affirmed its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian problem caused by the presence of land-mines and at the fact that the number of mines being laid each year exceeded the number that could be cleared during the same period.

2. The world-wide problem of land-mines has continued to grow in the past year, with the laying of new mines outstripping the efforts of the United Nations and other bodies to remove them. The ongoing unrest and recent conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Africa, Asia, the Caucasus and Latin America have all resulted in the creation of new mine pollution, with resultant dangerous long-term social and economic consequences for the civilian population. As internal conflicts and regional wars increase, so the popularity of the anti-personnel mine as a cheap and effective weapon of containment and terror becomes more firmly established. Mines continue to be laid without marking, fencing or mapping, in defiance of international law. Unexploded munitions continue to litter the battlefields, and the increasing use of bomblets and other sub-munitions delivered by rockets, artillery and aircraft has exacerbated the problem by increasing the amount of potentially lethal debris left after a conflict. The continuing instability of many areas of the world indicates that, without effective controls on the production, export, distribution and use of land-mines, the problem will continue to increase.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/215, called for an early international meeting on mine clearance. Pursuant to that request, the International Meeting on Mine Clearance was convened at Geneva from 5 to 7 July 1995. The Meeting comprised three elements: a high-level segment devoted to statements by Governments and organizations, which also provided an opportunity for participants to announce contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance and the United Nations de-mining standby capacity; nine panels of experts to discuss various specific aspects of the land-mine problem; and an exhibition focusing on the impact of land-mines on affected populations and international efforts to address the problem. The Meeting was set up as a forum to enhance international awareness of the different dimensions of the land-mine problem, to seek further political and financial support for United Nations activities in that field and to promote greater international cooperation. Ninety-seven Governments, 11 intergovernmental organizations, 16 United Nations bodies and 31 non-governmental organizations participated in the Meeting, which indicated the high level of interest in the matter.

4. In its resolution 49/215, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it before its fiftieth session a report covering the activities of the United Nations on assistance in mine clearance during the past year and on the operation of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE

5. The United Nations has provided assistance to several countries in the past year. Where necessary and appropriate, this was done through the creation of programmes that integrated all mine-related activities, including mine surveys, training, clearance, mine awareness, medical treatment and rehabilitation. In order to carry out these multifaceted activities, the United Nations looks to a number of discrete United Nations entities that bring commitment and expertise to the mine-related activities in which they engage.

6. Within the United Nations, various entities have engaged in activities in order to carry out their various mandates:

(a) The Department of Humanitarian Affairs serves as the focal point for all land-mine related activities within the United Nations system, ensuring the formulation of consistent policies, the formulation of integrated mine-action programmes, the mobilization of resources for United Nations land-mine activities and the coordination of system-wide activities in this field;

(b) The Department of Peace-keeping Operations carries out mine-related activities in connection with peace-keeping missions. In conjunction with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, it assists in preparing plans for United Nations mine-action programmes. The Department advises on the practical implementation of those plans in the fields of training, survey, clearance, management and specialized equipment, and on the need for the development of new mine-clearance technologies;

(c) The efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to protect refugees and ensure their safe and voluntary return have focused primarily on mine-awareness activities, but have also, in exceptional cases, included mine-clearance, survey and marking activities;

(d) The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) engages in activities aimed at preventing injury to children in mine-affected nations, in particular through mine-awareness programmes. Where injury has already occurred, UNICEF assists children in their physical and psychological recovery, and their reintegration into society;

(e) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), recognizing mine clearance, mine awareness and rehabilitation as development matters, has been involved in a range of activities, providing support to national mine-action offices, as well as mine surveys, clearance and training programmes;

(f) The World Food Programme (WFP) has undertaken mine-clearance projects to clear key access routes necessary for the delivery of food relief and often provides support to other United Nations mine-related efforts through the provision of food and logistical support;

(g) Other United Nations agencies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), have engaged in mine-related activities on a more limited basis.

7. In addition to the United Nations system, there are other organizations actively involved in alleviating the land-mine problem. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is very active in treatment and rehabilitation efforts. Numerous non-governmental organizations are involved in mine-survey, mine-awareness, rehabilitation and mine-clearance activities.

8. United Nations peace-keeping forces carry out mine clearance for two primary purposes. Firstly, mine clearance is often necessary to provide for a secure environment to engage in peace-keeping. Secondly, they have been extensively involved in large mine-clearance programmes, when de-mining is necessary to carry out another part of their mandates. For example, in Cambodia, the United Nations peace-keeping mandate included the conduct of elections, so polling sites were de-mined. In Angola, part of the United Nations peace-keeping mandate is to restore the free movement of people and to create an indigenous de-mining capacity, thus the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) will work closely with other United Nations agencies in the development of integrated programmes.

Specific country programmes

Afghanistan

9. There are an estimated 10 million mines strewn throughout Afghanistan, a country still troubled by internal conflict. Mines and unexploded ordnance are located in almost every conceivable type of terrain. The vast majority of mines were scattered at random, with no records indicating their precise locations. The United Nations estimates that over 150 of Afghanistan's districts are affected by mines. Mines are a particular problem on the country's borders, posing special challenges for the process of repatriating refugees.

10. The Mine Clearance Programme within the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance Coordination (UNOCHA) is the longest running United Nations-supported de-mining programme. There are four main components to the Programme: clearance, clearance training, mine-field surveying and mine-awareness education. The Programme is implemented by 2,925 workers employed by six Afghan non-governmental organizations, one international non-governmental organization and a relief agency of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These organizations have clearly demarcated the division of labour by activity (i.e. training, awareness, clearance) and/or geography. The Programme continues to strive for standardization and standard operating procedures covering technical, operational and administrative matters have been published and are followed by the de-mining organizations.

11. Through the end of 1994, a total of 109,754 mines were cleared, 215,764 unexploded ordnance devices were destroyed, 54 million square metres of land were made safe, and about 2,497,400 people received mine-awareness briefings. The Programme's achievements in 1994 were double those of 1993, owing in large part to steady and increased funding. UNOCHA estimates that, at the rate sustained in 1994, and with continued funding, all priority clearance will be

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completed by the end of 1997. Up to June 1995, mid-year targets were exceeded: 17,048,240 square metres had been surveyed and 12,347,349 square metres cleared. 270,000 civilians had received mine-awareness training and 1,555 field staff basic or revision training.

12. In 1994, the Programme, in collaboration with UNHCR, extended its mine-awareness activities to Afghan refugees returning from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mine-awareness teams are stationed at the border exit stations. Working with UNOCHA, an ILO project provided courses in 1994 for personnel responsible for training trainers of mine clearance and vocational training was provided to those who were disabled while conducting mine-clearance activities. The project was completed at the end of 1994 and proposals to continue the work have not yet received funding.

13. When months of street battles subsided in Kabul in March 1995, the Programme's teams identified 252 new mine-contaminated locations over a 22 square kilometre area of the city. Of this area, some 10 square kilometres have been categorized as high priority. The return of refugees to the city led to a concurrent rise in the number of land-mine casualties: 1,500 alone in the month of April, according to ICRC. The Programme currently has 10 mine-clearance teams, 7 mine-survey teams and 5 dog teams working in Kabul.

14. The total budget requirements for the Programme for 1995 are US\$ 25,050,000. With \$7,050,000 already available, the latest consolidated appeal, launched in October 1994, sought the remaining \$18 million. As at June 1995, \$11,126,686 had been received in response to the appeal. At the International Meeting on Mine Clearance (see para. 3), an additional \$3,447,770 was pledged for UNOCHA and \$625,000 was pledged for treatment and rehabilitation activities undertaken by WHO.

15. The Programme's objectives for 1995 include providing mine-awareness education to 900,000 civilians, on a budget of \$900,000, and holding eight basic training courses for 240 students, eight pre-deployment courses, four team-leader courses for 80 students and four additional courses for 60 students, with a budget of \$800,000. Twenty minefield survey teams will operate in 20 provinces, surveying 18 million square metres, on a budget of \$1,600,000. The mine-clearance budget is \$19,450,000, providing for 48 manual clearance teams to operate in 19 provinces, for a target area of 15,850,000 square metres.

Angola

16. Angola is estimated to have between nine and 15 million land-mines, laid during three decades of civil war. To date, these mines have caused as many as 70,000 amputees. Internally displaced persons and refugees began to return after the signing of the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex) in November 1994 making the task of humanitarian de-mining all the more urgent. Preparations to conduct a large-scale mine-action programme are now under way. The participation of a number of United Nations and non-governmental organizations illustrates the importance of a coordinated and integrated programme.

17. In March 1994, the Central Mine Action Office (CMAO) was established within the framework of the Unit for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to

Angola (UCAH). Until June 1995, CMAO had been limited to coordination of mine-awareness programmes and the establishment of a general coordination structure, including a mine database, because of funding delays. In the absence of peace, gathering of minefield information was limited owing to concerns by the Government and the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) that such information would compromise their security. A mine survey commenced in June 1995. International non-governmental organizations have been assisting in surveying the quartering areas where Angolan military factions will be stationed. By August 1995, 10 of the 14 quartering areas had been surveyed for mines. Actual de-mining is being done by international non-governmental organizations, UNAVEM III engineer forces, government forces and UNITA.

18. CMAO has a planned operating budget of \$29,494,000 for the first 12 months of operations, of which \$17,089,800 is contributed through assessed contributions and a further \$12,404,200 is to be raised through the consolidated appeal. Very little has been received in the appeal to date - only \$1.2 million - but a number of Governments indicated at the International Meeting on Mine Clearance at Geneva that they would be willing to support specific de-mining projects. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs is currently working closely with CMAO to develop a list of high-priority de-mining projects.

19. CMAO, in cooperation with UNAVEM III, will focus on assisting the creation of an indigenous de-mining capacity through training of local personnel in different aspects of mine-clearance operations as well as in managerial skills related to those operations. The Mine Clearance Training School is being staffed and training of a corps of Angolan de-miners will commence in late 1995, if the budget is approved in due time. There are smaller, temporary mine-training schools established by non-governmental organizations at Kuito, Luena and Malanje.

20. With the signing of the Lusaka Protocol, the Government of Angola has assumed responsibility for all land-mine-related activities within Angola. The Government has set up the National Institute for the Removal of Explosive Obstacles, which will be responsible for the programme. In addition, the Government has designated approximately 1,200 former soldiers, from both its own and UNITA forces, to perform mine-clearance activities.

21. WFP, in coordination with UCAH, commenced mine-clearance activities in early 1995 along major transport corridors. The \$2.4 million project has successfully opened the Malanje-Luanda and the Kuito-Lobito roads to the free movement of people and trade, as well as to humanitarian assistance deliveries that were previously made by airlift. This project included WFP collaboration with Norwegian People's Aid to conduct a six-week training session for 60 local de-miners and to undertake de-mining work in Malanje.

22. Mine awareness, coordinated by the mine-awareness officer in CMAO, began in September 1994, conducted by UNICEF and Angolan non-governmental organizations using national media and messages printed on bags and clothing. At the same time, UNHCR has developed a mine-awareness training programme, which will be implemented as part of the repatriation operation for Angolan refugees. A number of international non-governmental organizations are also engaged in mine-

awareness activities. CMAO will expand mine-awareness programmes to cover all refugee repatriation camps, internally displaced populations, United Nations and non-governmental organization personnel, and affected Angolan communities.

23. Mine-related medical activities are also being undertaken by United Nations agencies. In cooperation with the Government of Angola, WHO plans to strengthen the blood bank in Luanda to assure a safe blood supply for the expected surge in mine victims, as more and more refugees return. In April 1995, UNICEF established a programme to assist children traumatized by land-mine injuries.

Cambodia

24. Cambodia, which is infested with 8 to 10 million land-mines, has the highest percentage of amputees: an estimated 1 out of every 236 persons has lost one limb or worse. The Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC) was created by the Government in 1992 to provide an integrated national structure for building a counter-mine capacity. CMAC took over mine-clearance activities from the de-mining arm of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which had conducted de-mining operations until the end of its mandate. The United Nations continues to be involved with the Cambodian programme through the provision of technical advice to CMAC. This project, implemented by UNDP, will terminate in April 1996.

25. Through mid-1995, the Cambodian mine-clearance programme has cleared a total of 62,000 land-mines and some 420,000 other explosive devices, or 16.5 million square metres. Over the past year, CMAC has cleared land more rapidly and more safely than ever before. Each CMAC platoon clears an estimated 500 to 1,000 square metres a day and by August 1995 de-miners had cleared 233 minefields. With the exception of 28 expatriate military personnel (to be decreased to 17 during 1995) and a few experts from non-governmental organizations, the CMAC staff is entirely Cambodian.

26. CMAC has held 323 mine-awareness classes, attended by 56,482 people. UNICEF and UNESCO have also been engaged in mine-awareness programmes in Cambodia. UNICEF provides support to the Children and Women's Prosthetic and Orthotic Programme of the Cambodia Trust, which specializes in provision of artificial limbs to women and children.

27. CMAC operations are funded through voluntary contributions, in response to an appeal issued jointly by UNDP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in late 1993. The appeal sought \$20 million for the two-year period from April 1994 to March 1996. As at August 1995, approximately \$18 million was contributed or pledged.

28. Unfortunately, the conflict in Cambodia continues and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea is still deploying mines in areas under its control. A disturbing sign is recent evidence that the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea is using home-made mines, constructed from fertilizer, lubricating oil and nails, that are as effective as imported ones. This increases the scale of the land-mine problem in Cambodia.

Chad

29. A United Nations mission was conducted in June 1995, at the request of the Government of Chad, to assess the extent of the mine problem. Consideration is now being given to possible activities.

El Salvador

30. Shortly after the Peace Agreements were signed between the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional in January 1992, UNICEF initiated a programme designed to prevent accidental deaths from the estimated 20,000 mines laid in the country. The initial thrust of the Mine Awareness Programme (PAM) was to identify minefields and to post danger signs, to educate the population in mined areas to avoid contact with mines and explosives, and to support efforts to deactivate mines. At the same time, the Government of El Salvador engaged a private firm to undertake mine-clearance activities. This was completed in January 1994. While no land-mine accidents have been reported since January 1994, hand-grenades and other explosive devices have injured 271 people, including 42 children. As a result of this new development, the PAM Committee began a second phase of the project to rid El Salvador of the remaining explosive devices. Throughout the 15-month period envisioned for PAM II, public education efforts have been renewed.

Former Yugoslavia

31. It is estimated that millions of land-mines have been laid in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops are engaged in limited de-mining activities in order to carry out their mandate of providing for access for humanitarian convoys. UNPROFOR also provides some supervision of mine clearance done by local forces in non-contested areas.

32. With the Croatian Ministry of Education, UNICEF has prepared a manual for teachers and a video cassette for use in schools and for broadcast on the national television networks. The programme has already reached 400,000 children in Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prior to that initiative, children were reported to be collecting land-mines, sometimes with tragic results.

Georgia

33. In August 1994, the United Nations undertook an assessment mission, which estimated that there were approximately 75,000 to 150,000 mines in Abkhazia, with more being laid, and reported two to four mine accidents every week. Although the political situation in the area did not yet allow the start of a full-scale mine-clearance programme, the mission recommended the immediate establishment of an information and coordination capacity, a mine-awareness programme, a mine survey, including mine marking, and low-scale emergency mine-clearance. The 1995 consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Caucasus region included those activities and sought funds in the amount of approximately \$900,000. Thus far, lack of funding and political consent has delayed activities.

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34. As part of the preparations for the organized return of internally displaced persons, UNHCR printed and distributed mine-warning materials (produced in both Georgian and Russian). In December 1994 and January 1995, tens of thousands of leaflets were distributed in schools and public places in and around the demarcation and cease-fire area between Abkhazia and Georgia. There are plans for a second project, modelled on the campaign in Mozambique, to train mine-awareness educators who will then prepare all 200,000 refugees inside Georgia for their repatriation to Abkhazia, and a third project to disseminate mine-awareness material to schools attended by internally displaced children.

Guatemala

35. In Guatemala, land-mines have prevented refugees from returning home and prevented those who have returned from initiating agricultural activities, thus extending their dependence on food assistance. A comprehensive mine-risk reduction programme for returnees, including marking and education activities, was initiated in Guatemala in 1994 by UNHCR, local non-governmental organizations and WFP, with the armed forces clearing mines in resettlement sites.

36. UNHCR selected future returnees to be trained in mine awareness and mine detection. The returnees searched out mines, marked them and then informed the Government for it to dispose of them. The UNHCR-funded segment of the programme was completed at the end of 1994. UNHCR's implementing partner has continued the mine-marking and education activities. UNICEF has also conducted some mine-awareness activities, modelled upon its successful El Salvador programme.

Mozambique

37. Mozambique's 16-year civil war has left an estimated 2 million land-mines spread throughout the nation. Current information suggests there may be some 2,000 mined sites, placed as defensive rings around population centres, on roads and paths, around economic structures and in agricultural fields. In the first 18 months of peace, at least 1,000 people were killed by mines. There are 8,000 amputees. Mine casualties account for 4 per cent of all surgical cases in Mozambican hospitals; that 4 per cent, however, consumes up to 25 per cent of all surgical resources.

38. Following the 1992 General Peace Agreement between the Government of Mozambique and the Resistência Nacional Moçambicana, the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) was mandated to deal with military, political, electoral and humanitarian issues - the latter through its humanitarian component, the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance Coordination (UNOHAC).

39. Delays in the implementation of the Mozambican mine-clearance programme provoked criticism from donor countries. In June 1994, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs established the Accelerated De-mining Programme. By November 1994, the Programme had trained and equipped 450 de-miners to clear mines in southern Mozambique. Following the expiration of the peace-keeping mandate, the Programme continued its operations as a joint Department of Humanitarian Affairs/UNDP programme. Apart from the mine-clearance activities,

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the Accelerated De-mining Programme focused on the training of Mozambicans in supervision and management, with the objective of having its operations eventually run completely by local personnel. By August 1995, 5,000 mines, in an area totalling some 400,000 square metres, had been cleared.

40. The current Programme will continue until January 1996. Until then, it operates on a total budget of \$2,502,149 and has sufficient funds for its operations. If the Programme is to continue to be financed by the United Nations after January 1996, funds for its operations in 1996 will be needed. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs has begun a review of the future of the Programme.

41. Other United Nations bodies are also involved in mine-clearance activities. UNDP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, through a contracted consortium, undertook the clearance of 2,000 kilometres of priority roads from 1993 through its completion in March 1995. WFP involvement with emergency de-mining activities in Mozambique began prior to the establishment of UNOHAC, because of WFP involvement in food aid. In 1995, WFP commenced a \$1 million road project that will open, clear and repair important supply roads.

42. The large number of Mozambicans in refuge in neighbouring countries meant that mine-awareness activities were of critical importance. Between 1993 and the end of 1994, UNHCR engaged in extensive promotion of mine-awareness activities to prepare more than 1.3 million refugees for repatriation. The UNHCR mine-awareness programme was carried out with the assistance of Norwegian People's Aid, to train teachers to work with other international non-governmental organizations to conduct mine education in refugee camps and locations in the four major asylum nations bordering Mozambique (Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

43. The Mozambique de-mining effort includes a number of initiatives in addition to those of the United Nations, including programmes by the United States of America, Norwegian People's Aid and Halo Trust.

44. In May 1995, the Government of Mozambique created the National Mine Clearance Commission, which will develop overall policies, strategies and priorities for the Mozambican mine-action plan.

Rwanda

45. When some semblance of calm returned to Rwanda in 1994, UNICEF discovered that children returning to Kigali were encountering mines in and around their homes and schools. Although UNICEF is rarely involved in mine clearance, it contracted an Ethiopian army team to clear mines around schools and health centres to permit their reopening.

46. In collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF has undertaken a programme to prepare mine-awareness messages for use on the radio and to prepare materials for inclusion in its "School-in-a-Box" programme, a specially adapted education package for use in emergency situations. The UNICEF/UNESCO mine-awareness campaign has already reached 720,000 Rwandans between the ages of 7 and 14. It

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is planned to continue the campaign with half-yearly repetition to ensure that the lessons are remembered.

47. Prior to 1994, Rwanda's problem with uncleared mines and unexploded ordnance was located mainly in the northern parts of the country. The conflict in 1994 spread the mine problem throughout the country. In 1994, the United Nations conducted an assessment mission, to determine the extent of the problem and whether the provision of international assistance was necessary, appropriate and possible. As a preliminary response, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs has proposed the establishment of an information and coordination capacity to act as a focal point for all land-mine-related activity in the country, to conduct liaison between the United Nations and the Government of Rwanda and to coordinate mine surveys and mine marking. The United Nations is seeking the consent of the Government of Rwanda for such activities. The Government is considering its options.

Somalia

48. There are an estimated one million mines in Somalia, but, as with so many humanitarian activities in the country, international mine-related assistance has been limited by the ongoing insecurity, despite the presence of some Somali national de-mining capacity. Prior to the United Nations formal withdrawal from Somalia early in 1995, the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) employed Somali mine-clearers to conduct mine-clearance activities and provided training as appeared necessary. Since the departure of UNOSOM, United Nations agencies have pursued their humanitarian and rehabilitation activities wherever security conditions have permitted. UNESCO and UNHCR continue implementation of a mine-awareness programme, covering 36 towns and villages in north-west Somalia. The mine-awareness package developed by UNESCO for Somalia contains cloth charts, leaflets, a video and other mine-warning educational materials.

Yemen

49. In 1995, at the request of the Government of Yemen, the United Nations carried out an assessment mission, which resulted in the creation of a programme to advise the Government, which has responsibility for mine clearance. A land-mine information specialist provides advice to the Government on safe and reliable de-mining methods and is establishing a mine database to be used by the Government to better coordinate its mine-clearing activities. The army is estimated to have removed between 23,000 and 50,000 mines. The programme is financed by a contribution from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance.

III. UNITED NATIONS MINE-ACTION PROGRAMMES: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

50. Land-mines not only strike the individual with their lethal effects, but devastate whole nations by impeding the restoration of societal and economic life in the aftermath of armed conflicts, possibly for decades. Thus, the removal of land-mines is a prerequisite for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of a country. Agriculture cannot be revived without clearing the

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land of mines; transportation becomes impossible because of mined roads and tracks; irrigation systems and critical industries become unusable because of land-mines; and medical systems are overburdened. It is this impact on all social and economic activities that makes mine clearance and other land-mine-related activities an integral part of the post-conflict peace-building phase of a nation. International assistance in mine clearance, to be truly successful, has to orient its activities within this context. From the very outset of the provision of assistance, the concept within which it operates must be focused on the restoration of an environment that allows a society to regain normal life.

51. This requires, firstly, the recognition that only a sustainable, long-term mine-clearance programme, including all related activities, will achieve this goal. This is why the United Nations approach to assistance in mine clearance focuses on national capacity-building. Secondly, because of the impact of land-mines on practically every level of the political, economic and social institutions of a country, programmes for assistance in mine clearance must be designed to deal with the problem in its totality, addressing all dimensions of the problem simultaneously and in an integrated and coordinated manner.

52. Mine awareness without mine clearance only delays accidents, it does not prevent them. Mine clearance without mine-awareness programmes allows needless deaths to continue. Mine surveys help to prioritize clearance activities and are also a good way to educate local populations. To lessen the suffering, to minimize the burden on the health care system and to improve communication with de-miners, mine-awareness messages should be part of basic elementary school curricula and part of agricultural training programmes. Knowledge of the appropriate care for mine injuries should be part of the basic medical and health care structures. Not only is medical treatment critical for victims of mine accidents, but the information gathered from hospitals gives an early indication of those populations most at risk. Mine clearance provides employment where employment is limited owing to mined land and infrastructure.

53. However, the reality is that, in the countries where these programmes have occurred thus far, the basic infrastructure of schools, health care programmes and training programmes are scarcely functioning. This means the building of national capacity is necessary in a wide range of areas. Thus, United Nations policy, wherever assistance is provided, is to train local personnel in all aspects of mine clearance and related activities, and to establish an indigenous mine-clearance capacity. This is the most successful, most sustainable and most cost-effective method of tackling large-scale de-mining operations.

A. Elements of mine-action programmes

54. The creation and implementation of a national programme is a complex task, because of the number of actors involved and the sensitivity and importance of assistance activities. Coordination is necessary between the host Government, the different United Nations entities with their distinct mandates, United Nations peace-keeping forces, various international and local non-governmental organizations, bilateral aid missions and, in many cases, former rebel forces.

55. Since a Government has primary responsibility for the safety of its citizens, it must remain the primary participant in the planning and execution of a programme. In situations where national government structures are relatively weak, as in a post-conflict setting, ensuring the integration of the mine-action plan within a Government is difficult but essential for the sustainability of the mine-clearance efforts.

1. Creation of a national capacity

56. As the United Nations plan is being conceived, the transfer of management of operations from a United Nations-supported programme to a national organization and from expatriate to national staff must be priority objectives. In Cambodia, the United Nations de-mining programme focused almost exclusively on the training of de-miners. The United Nations peace-keeping forces had no mandate to create an indigenous capacity. Therefore, as UNTAC prepared to depart, the need for a strong central mine-clearance administrative structure with Cambodian management was further reinforced. As a result of this lack of foresight, the transition from the UNTAC de-mining programme to the Cambodian civilian programme that eventually evolved was difficult, though ultimately successful.

57. With the Cambodian lesson in mind, the Angola and Mozambique peace-keeping operations had the creation of a national indigenous de-mining capacity, including the establishment of a centralized de-mining structure, as a mandated objective. In Mozambique, the creation of an indigenous de-mining capacity was centred in the United Nations humanitarian agencies in order to avoid later difficulties with the transfer from the primarily military culture of the United Nations peace-keeping forces to Mozambican civilians and national control.

58. While this particular programme was not very successful in its initial phase, the United Nations learned the importance of a better-developed headquarters and field structure to support a more sizeable organization than was then available. In Angola, the United Nations also established an assistance programme within its humanitarian office.

59. Since Cambodia, there has been increased emphasis on the training of management and administrative staff. While the management of the programme will initially be handled by expatriate personnel, concurrent training is provided to their local counterparts in all managerial, logistical, financial and administrative tasks of a programme. In Mozambique, there is an ongoing training programme for management staff. It is intended to follow the same path in Angola.

60. It is worth noting that working with national authorities is not always possible, as in Afghanistan, where no central authority existed at the commencement of the United Nations de-mining programme. Instead of a national central mine entity, a number of independent, cooperative Afghan organizations were created. With growing political stability, discussions will take place as to how to interface with national authorities on the future of the ongoing programme.

61. An additional advantage of the national capacity approach is that the cost is much lower when local personnel are responsible for de-mining activities - an expatriate de-miner may cost 30 times that of a local worker. Hiring local de-miners also provides much-needed employment opportunities in economies that are just recovering from war. In addition, bringing former enemies together in de-mining teams can be a small but significant confidence-building measure, teaching citizens of a nation once again to work together.

62. The establishment of a national mine-action plan will encourage, or even demand, common standards, procedures and techniques. Implementation of standard procedures at the outset facilitates monitoring, evaluation and identification of common shortcomings. The importance of standardization was highlighted in Cambodia, where international de-mining experts coming from various nations brought different training and clearance techniques to the classroom and to the field. Even when common materials were provided to the schools, each school provided a slightly different approach to de-mining, based in large part upon the nationality of the expatriate trainer. In the subsequent creation of a unified national de-mining force, units that should have been interchangeable could not work effectively together. Eventually common techniques and standards were agreed upon.

63. In Mozambique, the United Nations addressed this problem by creating a single de-mining training school for all United Nations-trained de-miners. Norwegian People's Aid used the same curriculum as the United Nations school, because both were relying on curriculum developed in Cambodia for manual de-mining techniques. Angola will have the standardized school approach, although, because of the size of the country, there may be more than one training site, with a staff member specifically designated to ensure standardized training. Drawing upon experience and expertise from United Nations de-mining programmes in Afghanistan and Cambodia, the Departments of Peace-keeping Operations and Humanitarian Affairs are further developing standardized curricula and training programmes of instruction for de-miners, which will be available to any organization.

2. Mine surveys

64. As a programme commences, a comprehensive mine survey is needed to assess the extent of the problem throughout the country and to provide minefield marking to warn local populations. The results of the general survey form the basis for determining the appropriate size and form of the mine-clearance programme and for establishing priorities for mine clearance and mine-awareness activities. The general survey is usually a basis for later detailed surveys to establish as accurately as possible the exact dimensions of each minefield or mined area, so that clearance teams can work efficiently. The critical component of the mine survey is the effective storage, dissemination and utilization of the collected data. In a United Nations mine-clearance programme, all available information is collected at the central mine office, where a mine database is set up and a detailed master mine map is compiled.

65. Mine surveys have been carried out using both expatriate and indigenous surveyors. Detailed surveying is a slow and hazardous job, requiring advanced

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skills in mine clearance, as well as proficiency in cartography. This, perhaps, explains the widespread use of international organizations, which can commence surveying immediately and quickly start up a programme. In Mozambique and Cambodia, one international non-governmental organization conducted the entire survey; and in Angola a number of different international agencies are conducting parts of the survey, under the overall coordination of CMAO.

66. A different approach was used in Afghanistan. The United Nations provided training to Afghans on how to conduct a survey. They were then sent to their home districts, where they collected information and returned to the United Nations, where they received training on how to process the data collected. After being trained to conduct a detailed survey and to mark minefields, the general surveyors were subsequently sent back to collect more information. An Afghan non-governmental organization that specializes in surveys was formed out of the participants in the training programme.

3. Education and training in mine awareness

67. The primary objective of a mine-awareness education is to protect people from becoming mine casualties. To that end, populations at risk are taught how to identify land-mines, how to mark and report them, and how to minimize their chances of becoming victims while living and working in mined areas. An effective mine-awareness programme requires both the right message and the right medium. While the content of the mine-awareness message is important, the manner in which the message is conveyed will determine whether it confuses, educates or empowers. Specific information as to the types and likely locations of mines, including shape, size and colour, should be provided where possible and training materials should be specifically adapted for the culture, ethnicity, religion and customs of the target population.

68. Experience shows that community-based training activities are most effective. In the mine-awareness project in El Salvador, UNICEF used religious leaders, teachers, doctors and non-governmental organization staff in regular contact with the rural population who had relationships of trust and mutual respect and were thus in a position to communicate effectively with large numbers of people. A similar technique was used to educate Mozambican refugees. UNHCR selected a special personality profile of refugees for training as mine-awareness instructors. The profile included proficiency in Portuguese as well as one of the local languages.

69. Integration of mine-awareness education into the overall mine-action programme structure and further coordination of the mine-awareness programmes is the key. A fully integrated approach has yet to occur at more than a local level, although CMAO has a mine-awareness officer to ensure coordination between involved agencies. As a long-term objective, mine-awareness education must also be integrated into the country's education system in order to teach people in affected areas how to live with mines. Eventually, mine awareness must be decentralized to install local officials as the repositories of knowledge and awareness.

70. A number of United Nations entities and other organizations are actively involved in mine-awareness activities. Their experiences demonstrate that local conditions greatly influence the design of mine-awareness campaigns and that general parameters for the effective establishment of such campaigns have yet to be identified. The expert panel on mine-awareness education at the International Meeting on Mine Clearance (see para. 3) should be seen as the initiation of a process of bringing together experts from various organizations in this field to consider a more coordinated approach to the problem. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs is currently gathering all available information, curricula and so on on the issue. This library of compiled information may serve as a basis for further expert discussions to be convened by the Department.

4. Treatment and rehabilitation of land-mine victims

71. Land-mines are often designed to wound and maim, rather than kill. Medical treatment of land-mine victims is at best a short-term solution, which is unfortunately far beyond the capacity of most mine-affected States. Land-mine injuries place a huge burden on health care systems that are least equipped to handle them. Often, health care systems are devastated by war and the presence of mines continues to hinder their rehabilitation, as mined roads inhibit movement of medicines, health care professionals and vaccination teams.

72. The long and arduous physical rehabilitation therapy and the regular replacement of prostheses is a cost, both physical and financial, that many victims are unable to meet, but use of a prosthesis can contribute substantially to the return of the amputee as a functioning member of the family and community. United Nations efforts at rehabilitation recognize that physical and psychological rehabilitation must be combined with social and economic reintegration through income-generating activities and social support.

73. There is continuing development and standardization of the most effective medical treatment for land-mine victims and of training for paramedics. Ongoing discussions as to the most useful form of prosthetic devices parallel strenuous efforts to make the prosthetic devices accessible and affordable to amputees. As with other aspects of a mine-action programme, it is critical to nurture indigenous capacities in the manufacturing and fitting of prostheses and in rehabilitation therapy.

74. All United Nations mine-clearance programmes have provisions for medical evacuation and paramedics attached to each team or site. This often means that the de-mining team has more medical facilities than the local community within which it operates. Although neither paramedics nor the team's transport can be made available to the community at the expense of preparedness for accidents at the site of de-mining, the de-mining teams will often work with the local community to provide medical services. Aside from providing much needed medical care, these activities create an important link between de-mining activities and the local community, in turn increasing mine awareness among the community and ensuring that de-miners have the full cooperation of the community.

B. Coordination of activities

75. Addressing a land-mine problem in a comprehensive and integrated manner requires effective coordination. Lack of coordination will lead to duplication of effort or lack of attention to a particular aspect and will diminish the outcome of the programme for the affected country. A great deal remains to be done to coordinate the activities of the various United Nations bodies better and to tap fully their knowledge and resources in the conduct of mine-action programmes. Experience has led to certain de facto working arrangements within the United Nations system in the creation of programmes and the provision of mine-related assistance. Both UNHCR and UNICEF have developed substantial institutional expertise in the provision of mine-awareness training, WHO clearly has the capacity for coordinating mine-related medical support and UNDP has developed some ad hoc expertise in the administration and management of programmes. The Department of Peace-keeping Operations, in cooperation with interested Member States, has developed a substantial mine-clearance training capacity.

76. There are other organizations that have developed considerable expertise, some of which have worked closely with United Nations programmes. ICRC is active in treatment and rehabilitation of land-mine victims, as are some non-governmental organizations, while others have conducted mine-awareness programmes, mine-clearance training, mine surveys and mine clearance.

77. Direct Government-to-Government assistance, while rare, should also be coordinated with United Nations programmes.

78. It has fallen upon the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to coordinate these capacities in designing and implementing United Nations programmes. To enhance this cooperation further, the Department will develop more formal working arrangements with all parties in order to outline more clearly the role each agency will play in the provision of assistance in mine clearance.

79. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs drew upon experience when it established CMAO in Angola, investing it with responsibility for the coordination of all mine-related activities in the country. To that end, the Office liaises with the Government, coordinates the operations of the UNAVEM III training school and the deployment of the students who graduate from it and will make arrangements for the school to continue its operations after the end of the peace-keeping mandate. CMAO coordinates all mine-awareness activities in Angola, whether they are being carried out by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations. It will prioritize clearance operations, in consultation with the various implementing agencies, and will seek continued donor support for all activities in concert with all involved parties. This may prove to be a model to be adapted for future programmes.

IV. RESOURCES FOR UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES

80. Once a land-mine problem has been identified and the provision of assistance has been approved by the host Government and the United Nations, large amounts of funds are critical, especially at the commencement of a programme. Immediate access to funds allows early mine-awareness education programmes, the prompt establishment of mine-clearance training schools and the timely procurement of equipment. These start-up costs are often very high, because a de-mining programme may need to create almost all of its own infrastructure. It must have its own communication system, procure the necessary equipment for mine-clearance activities and ensure the availability of medical equipment and expertise to deal with mine injuries.

81. Funds for United Nations mine-clearance and other land-mine-related activities are generally raised and will continue to be raised through assessed contributions for peace-keeping operations and through the consolidated appeal process. In my last report (A/49/357 and Add.1 and 2), I emphasized the need to obtain additional resources in order to increase the number of countries that could receive United Nations mine-clearance assistance and to enhance significantly the overall United Nations de-mining programme capacity. Accordingly, on 30 November 1994, I established the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance and entrusted the Department of Humanitarian Affairs with its management.

A. Consolidated inter-agency appeal process

82. In countries that are facing complex emergencies, funds are generally raised through consolidated inter-agency appeals, including resources for land-mine programmes. Consolidated appeals will remain a main source for financing such programmes. To date, projects have been included in the consolidated appeals for Afghanistan, Angola, the Caucasus, the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

B. Assessed peace-keeping contributions

83. In Cambodia, Somalia, Mozambique and now Angola, the peace-keeping forces were mandated to carry out mine-clearance operations and their budgets included funds for mine action. In Cambodia, UNTAC, trained local de-miners who, following the expiration of the peace-keeping mandate, became the core of the CMAC staff. In Angola, the peace-keeping operation will set up a mine-clearance training school in cooperation with CMAO and will equip and field the students. In the first stage, graduates of the school will carry out mine clearance for the needs of the peace-keeping operation. In the long run, they will become the core of the national humanitarian mine-action programme. This linkage between a peace-keeping operation and a humanitarian programme is of critical importance. This is why it will be extremely advantageous for future peace-keeping operations to continue to include resources for the early establishment of an integrated de-mining programme. It is also important to link the peace-keeping mine-clearance activities closely to the humanitarian activities from the very beginning, to ensure a coordinated approach to the land-mine problem and the continuance of mine-related activities following the peace-keeping mandate.

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C. Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance

84. The start of programmes has often been delayed because of lack of quick access to promised funds from consolidated appeals and regular peace-keeping assessments. The Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance has become the central tool for financing mine-action activities in a timely and effective manner, as it is designed to have a balance of funds readily available for quick utilization.

85. The purpose of the Trust Fund is to facilitate, in particular, the launching of mine-clearance operations. It is during the establishment of mine-action programmes that most costs occur. It is therefore essential that the Trust Fund have sufficient resources to provide mine-action programmes with the necessary start-up finances when other resources are not immediately available. Seed money, or start-up funds, are required for such activities as the establishment of field-level coordination mechanisms, the creation of a systematic capacity to gather and collate mine information, mine surveys, the establishment of a training school, the early procurement of mine-clearance equipment, mine-awareness programmes, key clearance operations and rehabilitation activities. For all these activities the Trust Fund functions as a complementary mechanism to the above-mentioned funding sources. In addition to its utility as seed money, the Fund may be used for assessment missions, bridging of funding delays during implementation of a programme, public-awareness campaigns, headquarters support and the expansion of existing programmes.

86. One of the objectives of the International Meeting on Mine Clearance was to solicit funds for the Trust Fund. Strong support was expressed for the financing of land-mine-related activities and it was gratifying that over \$20 million was pledged to the Fund. A number of countries also indicated willingness to make contributions to it in the near future. While a great deal more funding is needed to meet all the pressing demands for assistance in mine clearance, these contributions will enable the United Nations to initiate and support de-mining operations in a more timely and effective manner.

87. Since its inception in November 1994, only a few projects have been financed from the Trust Fund, as the contributions received prior to the International Meeting on Mine Clearance were limited. With a contribution of \$150,000 from the United Kingdom, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs set up a programme to provide technical advice in mine clearance to the Government of Yemen. Two specialists were sent to Yemen to gather all available information on land-mines in that country and to set up a database. They also advised the Government on mine-clearance operations. In May 1995, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs funded a research project on the socio-economic impact of land-mines. Contributions from New Zealand and the United Kingdom provided the necessary funding for the establishment of the Mine Clearance and Policy Unit within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

88. In the coming months, the priority of United Nations mine-action activities will be the furtherance of the comprehensive programme in Angola. In February 1995, a consolidated inter-agency appeal for Angola was launched, including mine-action projects that require \$12.4 million for a 12-month period.

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While these projects will be funded through contributions towards the appeal, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs will provide the resources for priority projects from the Voluntary Trust Fund to ensure that the comprehensive programme for Angola is implemented in a timely manner.

89. The value of the Trust Fund cannot be overestimated. As the number of mine-clearance programmes will continue to grow over the coming years and as those already in operation will require funds for a long time, it is most important to sustain this tool through enduring financial support from the international community. Therefore, those Member States who indicated support at the International Meeting are urged to continue to do so and those who have not yet made a contribution are urged to consider doing so.

90. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs will, in accordance with the terms of reference of the Trust Fund, issue annual reports on its operation, describing projects financed from it and prioritizing projects to be funded in the coming 12 months. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs will, on the basis of the utilization of the Trust Fund, seek resources for its replenishment on an annual basis.

D. De-mining standby capacity

91. The establishment of comprehensive indigenous programmes requires, in particular in the first stages, a large number of expert personnel and specialized equipment. In-kind contributions from Member States have been an important asset to all three major mine-clearance programmes of the United Nations. In Afghanistan, personnel seconded by Member States to work with UNOCHA began pioneering the mine-clearance and mine-awareness training methods that have since become normal operating procedures for the United Nations. In Cambodia, this experience was repeated when military personnel contributed to UNTAC established de-mining schools and began training indigenous de-miners. Following the expiration of the UNTAC mandate, expatriate expert personnel seconded to the United Nations helped run CMAC. In Mozambique, again, military personnel from four Member States established and ran the Mine Clearance Training School. Following the expiration of the peace-keeping mandate in Mozambique, five expatriate staff contributed to the United Nations established the Accelerated De-mining Programme. In Angola, a de-mining school is being set up by UNAVEM III. Troop contributions from Member States will staff this school, which will become the core of the mine-clearance programme in Angola.

92. However, while mechanisms and structures to facilitate the contribution of personnel, equipment and expert advice have been most fully developed in the context of troop contributions to peace-keeping operations, this is not the case in other United Nations operations. This is particularly relevant to United Nations humanitarian programmes, which are sometimes established in areas where no peace-keeping mandate exists (e.g. Afghanistan) or are required to continue after a peace-keeping mandate ends (e.g. Cambodia, Mozambique). In the past, this has caused considerable problems and delays in creating the necessary legal and administrative arrangements to permit donor States to contribute personnel and other resources to United Nations programmes.

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93. It was for this reason that the Secretary-General asked the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to establish a standby capacity for de-mining and other land-mine-related activities. Such a standby capacity would allow the United Nations to draw more effectively upon the resources of personnel, facilities, equipment, and services that are available from Member States for such programmes.

94. The following elements could be furnished by in-kind contributions:

Personnel

95. Experts are needed to assist in training local personnel in all the aspects of a programme. There is also a need for personnel or units capable of being deployed to accomplish specific tasks, such as conducting assessment missions, mine survey and reconnaissance, providing medical support to mine-clearance operations, establishing communications networks or conducting a variety of training missions.

Equipment

96. The provision of appropriate vehicles and communication equipment, medical supplies and hospital equipment and so on will significantly reduce the start-up costs. Specialized mine-clearance equipment that meets the standards set by the United Nations is also required. Such equipment could include mine detectors, prodders, personal protective gear, grapnels, detonators and explosive charges. The provision of equipment to support the deployment of de-mining platoons, such as tents, water trailers, cooking gear, blankets, clothing and beds, will eliminate the need for such equipment to be bought by the programmes themselves and therefore speed up deployment.

Facilities

97. The designation of facilities within a donor State could also be a valuable contribution. The provision of facilities for the specialized training of key personnel would provide a flexible method of improving their training. In addition, Member States could provide facilities to allow for testing and analysis of mine-clearance equipment, as well as research and development establishments to work directly in support of United Nations programmes.

98. At the International Meeting on Mine Clearance, the establishment of a United Nations de-mining standby capacity was considered at the plenary session. Four Governments announced specific contributions, worth \$7 million, to the standby capacity. An additional 15 Governments announced their willingness to contribute. These announced and indicated contributions included the provision of expert training personnel, equipment, the provision of training facilities, facilities for treatment of land-mine victims and the provision of mine-clearance teams.

99. Details of contributions to the United Nations de-mining standby capacity will be kept in the United Nations Land-Mine Database, which has a specific module for the purpose. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs will now set up the necessary legal and administrative arrangements to make the standby capacity

fully operational and will consult with Governments on the detailed requirements for this standby capacity.

V. ACTIONS FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION

100. Over the course of the past few years and as a result in large part of the work of the Secretariat and several United Nations agencies, international awareness of the global land-mine crisis and consequent support for the mine-related activities of the Organization has risen significantly. However, during the past year, approximately 100,000 land-mines were removed, while between 2 and 5 million mines were newly laid. These figures emphasize that this is not a static problem, but a humanitarian crisis that is growing rapidly. They also indicate that mine clearance alone, even at the increased rate that it is hoped to achieve, will not solve the problem. Equally important are increased and concerted political efforts to stop the further proliferation of land-mines.

101. The political goal to halt the further spread of land-mines requires increased action in the field of public advocacy. Increasing knowledge of this enormous humanitarian crisis will prepare the ground for effective political and legal initiatives to solve it. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs is well placed to fulfil this role and to coordinate system-wide activities in this area. In concert with other United Nations organizations, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs will develop a strategy of public advocacy initiatives.

102. An important landmark in the Organization's efforts to raise international awareness of the land-mine problem was the International Meeting on Mine Clearance (see para. 3). The fact that this Meeting brought together almost 100 Governments and 60 organizations shows the growing consciousness of the land-mine crisis. It was the first time that so many politicians and experts from all over the world had discussed the land-mine issue in all its dimensions.

103. Several important political issues were raised at the Meeting. Almost all participating delegations emphasized the need for strengthening international humanitarian law to stop the further spread of these weapons. In particular, most delegations pointed to the importance of the upcoming review conference of the States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Protocol II of which deals with the use of land-mines and booby traps, and the urgent need to strengthen its provisions. In the meetings of the group of government experts to prepare the review conference, several key issues such as the applicability of the Convention to internal conflicts, the detectability of all anti-personnel mines and the requirement that all remotely delivered mines must contain self-destructing mechanisms were agreed upon. It is hoped that they will be included in the revised Convention. However, other important issues remain to be resolved. Efforts must be made at the review conference to strengthen the Convention and the land-mine Protocol by adding strong enforcement provisions, by achieving meaningful restrictions on the transfer of land-mines, their component parts and land-mine technology; by including obligatory agreement to permit inspections to determine compliance and appropriate sanctions for non-compliance. Also, strong legal protections should be added to article VIII of Protocol II, extending its

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provisions to cover humanitarian personnel working in mined areas. The Convention should also include provisions to institutionalize its review.

104. Most delegations at the International Meeting agreed that the Convention would only be a viable tool if all Member States adhered to its provisions. So far, only 50 Member States are party to the Convention.

105. Another important issue that was commonly mentioned by delegations at the International Meeting was the question of export moratoriums on land-mines. This is the third year that the issue will be on the agenda of the General Assembly. In its resolutions 48/75 K of 16 December 1993 and 49/75 D of 15 December 1994, the Assembly called on Member States to agree to a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines and urged Member States to implement such a moratorium. So far, only some 20 countries have enacted an export moratorium. Some countries indicated at the International Meeting that they would implement such a moratorium shortly.

106. Notwithstanding the importance of these efforts, it is emphasized once again that the ultimate goal must be a total ban on the production, transfer and use of land-mines. Only a total ban will stop their spread. A ban is easier to implement and easier to monitor and verify. Moreover it would guarantee, more than any other measure, that the indiscriminate killing and maiming of innocent civilians will eventually cease. A number of countries and organizations called for such a ban in their statements at the International Meeting. Some referred to this as the ultimate goal or the desired objective towards which the United Nations should work, while others considered that the time had already come for such action.

107. In the past few decades, the use of land-mines has changed from strictly defensive to offensive and they are being used, in particular, to terrorize civilian populations. In low-intensity and low-budget internal conflicts, land-mines have become a weapon of choice because they are both cheap and effective. In this connection, it would be an important step forward to extend the applicability of the Convention to internal conflicts. However, in most internal conflicts, some of which have lasted for decades (e.g. Angola, Cambodia, Mozambique), it will be difficult to determine compliance with the provisions of the Convention. Only a total ban would eliminate the further use of these weapons. The random use and long-lasting effects of land-mines put them in the category of those which kill and maim indiscriminately. In this connection, attention is drawn to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, which was signed in Paris in January 1993. This Convention has set a precedent for meaningful restrictions on these kinds of weapons. Article I of the Convention binds States never to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain or transfer chemical weapons and never to use them.

108. Non-governmental organizations have been an essential element of the international campaign to stop the further proliferation of land-mines and have played a strong role in public advocacy on the issue. One example is the International Campaign to Ban Land-Mines, which comprises more than 300 organizations from all over the world. The United Nations should seek closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations in this field.

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VI. CONCLUSION

109. The United Nations approach to a land-mine problem is based on the principle of capacity-building. The responsibility to clear land-mines rests ultimately with the Government of an affected country. Moreover, mine-clearance programmes are likely to continue for decades. The United Nations is therefore assisting Governments to create sustainable national capacities that will continue as national development programmes after the direct support for mine-action programmes through the United Nations has ceased.

110. Land-mines affect all sectors of societal and economic life. The United Nations, therefore, follows an integrated approach to mine clearance, addressing the problem in its various facets and involving a number of agencies of the United Nations system. To consolidate this approach, it is essential to have one central office responsible for the coordination of all activities related to mine clearance. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in consultation with other United Nations entities, will further develop the framework for United Nations mine-action programmes. At the field level, it will fulfil this responsibility by establishing the appropriate capacities to coordinate all such activities within United Nations programmes.

111. As experience increases and the number of actual and prospective programmes multiplies, the United Nations is moving to standardize many elements of its activities, including survey, information collection and management, and training and management modules. Care should be taken to ensure that the standardized models are flexible enough that they can be tailored to the requirements of each national programme, as no one model will answer the requirements of all operations.

112. Mine clearance is slow, dangerous and expensive, and to clear all the mines already laid cannot be accomplished within the limitations of current funding and technology. The international community must now make increased efforts to develop de-mining technologies that will improve the speed and the safety of de-mining without significantly increasing the cost. Member States are strongly urged to expand research and development on humanitarian mine-clearance techniques and technology, with a view to developing practicable, low-cost and sustainable equipment. Member States need to work together to achieve this and the United Nations is examining methods by which it can establish and promote such international collaboration.

113. The Central Land-Mine Database of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, which was on display at the International Meeting on Mine Clearance, has received very positive recognition as a valuable information tool for mine-related activities. All organizations involved in mine-related activities are asked to work closely with the Department to increase the database's capacity further. The Department is also in the process of establishing a central repository of mine-awareness materials to facilitate the exchange of information, which would increase the effectiveness and usefulness of ongoing awareness work. In addition, a central repository for information on mine-clearance techniques was called for recently at the International Meeting on Mine Clearance.

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114. In the past few years, the international community has increased its support for United Nations programmes. However, it is apparent that this is only the beginning, as the problem is one of enormous proportions. Deeper national commitment and a greater level of resources is needed to prevail against the land-mine threat and Member States are therefore urged to sustain their support for assistance in mine clearance.

115. With the \$22 million pledged at the International Meeting, the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance will now become fully operational. This central Fund is intended to be a complementary funding source for United Nations programmes, as it is designed to finance activities in the area of mine clearance when other funds are not yet available or not readily available, in order to accelerate the United Nations response to a land-mine problem. The Secretary-General will report periodically on the status of the Trust Fund and will suggest ways to maintain it at an appropriate level for effective operation. In the meantime, Member States, in particular those who have not yet done so, are urged to provide their support to this important endeavour.

116. The de-mining standby capacity has been widely welcomed by Member States and is seen as an important adjunct to the Voluntary Trust Fund. The United Nations is engaged in ongoing discussions with Member States regarding the most efficient method for its operation. Member States are strongly urged to give all possible practical support to enable the United Nations to establish the standby capacity at a viable level.

117. The International Meeting on Mine Clearance was a success on many levels. It generated critically needed financial resources and political support. It raised the public's consciousness about the global land-mine crisis and initiated and strengthened contacts between all those involved. Consideration will be given to the convening of a follow-up meeting within the next two years.

118. Mine clearance alone will not solve the land-mine crisis. Significant political efforts to stop the further proliferation of mines will have to be undertaken. As a priority, the upcoming review conference of the States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects must take significant steps to strengthen the provisions of the land-mine Protocol. This would include adding strong legal protections for humanitarian personnel working in mined areas; achieving meaningful restrictions on the transfer of land-mines, their component parts and land-mine technology; obligatory agreement to permit inspections to determine compliance; and appropriate sanctions for non-compliance. The Convention should also include an institutionalized mechanism for review. The land-mine Protocol will only be a valuable tool when adherence is universal.

119. In its resolutions 48/75 K and 49/75 D, the General Assembly called for a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines and urged Member States to implement such moratoriums. So far, only some 20 Member States have answered this call. Those Member States who have not instituted moratoriums are strongly urged to consider doing so.

120. The Convention and export moratoriums are helpful in limiting the proliferation of land-mines. However, as emphasized on many occasions, only a total ban will effectively stop their spread once and for all. A ban is easier to implement and easier to monitor and verify. All Member States should work towards this goal. The use of land-mines, their production and transfer must be banned and those which are stockpiled must be destroyed.



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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND
THEIR IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Note by the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	2
II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES	3
Qatar	3
Ukraine	5

* A/50/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 2 December 1994, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/67 entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security", the relevant parts of which read as follows:

["The General Assembly,]

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to follow scientific and technological developments and to make a relevant assessment in keeping with the criteria presented to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session 1/ and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session;

"4. Also requests the Secretary-General to develop a database of concerned research institutions and experts with a view to promoting transparency and international cooperation in the applications of the scientific and technological developments for pursuing disarmament objectives such as disposal of weapons, conversion and verification, among others;

"5. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views and assessments".

2. Given the complexity and magnitude of modern technology, it is a challenging task to make relevant assessments of new developments in all the five broad areas discussed in the Secretary-General's earlier report on the subject, 2/ i.e., biotechnology, information technology, materials technology, nuclear technology and space-related technologies. Such assessments require special expertise in monitoring the processes of research, development, testing and evaluation in each independent field of technology as well as their impact on each other and on international security. The Secretary-General lacks sufficient resources for that purpose. Support from Member States would enable him to undertake such assessments on a periodic basis. The Secretary-General, however, is continuing efforts to stay informed about major trends of discussions within various parts of the United Nations system on those issues of science and technology which have a bearing on disarmament and international security.

3. The United Nations will stand to gain by encouraging greater interaction among the scientific community, Governments, industry and the public in order to elaborate criteria for technology assessment with a view to following its impact on international security. National and regional initiatives in organizing periodic workshops/seminars for this purpose will be a welcome step in that direction.

4. The Centre for Disarmament Affairs is in the process of expanding its existing database on disarmament to encompass concerned research institutions and experts with a view to promoting transparency and international cooperation in the applications of the scientific and technological developments for pursuing disarmament objectives such as disposal of weapons, conversion and verification.

5. The Secretary-General sent a note verbale to Member States on 17 March 1995 to solicit their views and assessments on the subject. The replies received to date are reproduced in chapter II. Any other replies received will be issued as addenda to the report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

QATAR

[Original: Arabic]

[28 July 1995]

1. Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security

1. Scientific and technological developments have played a prominent role in the life and evolution of humankind. They were - and still are - the direct cause of major transformations in all fields, including the political, economic, social, military and industrial. It is universally recognized that in political or military conflicts victory is allied with scientific and technological development, as was the case throughout the world in the interwar period. There is thus no doubt that scientific and technological development has had an impact on international security. Although it can play both a positive role and a negative role, and presents advantages as well as disadvantages, the contemporary world seeks to emphasize its positive aspects. As a result of constant important research and studies, scientific and technological development has given rise to many vital new areas of endeavour and has come to encompass many technical fields, some of which are mentioned below.

(a) Communications

2. The scope of communications today has made the world a small village in which news is transmitted in record time through satellite stations dispersed in space. This has made it easy for the international community to zero in quickly on any point of tension in order to maintain peace and security in the region and to respond to any act of aggression or violation of the sovereignty of a country. There are many recent as well as contemporary examples of this. The advanced and complex equipment mounted on satellites, with their great precision and sensitivity, enables espionage against other States in space as well as the monitoring of their movements through reconnaissance flights. Ground and ship-borne stations are equally well equipped with espionage and monitoring equipment and are capable of engaging in reconnaissance activities, in addition to carrying advanced weapons. Mention should also be made of aircraft as a means of communication, including AWACS and other aircraft of various sizes, and the early-warning equipment they carry which can reach any point in the world in a short time. Telecommunications has also benefited the world to a great extent, inasmuch as it has now become possible to communicate with any part of the world in a short time and to transmit information effortlessly at extraordinary speeds.

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(b) Weapons

3. Security and stability in a region is linked both to its political, economic and military importance and to the political and military forces that safeguard that stability and ward off international crises that might turn it into an area of tension. Scientific and technological development in the military field has led to the expansion of the apparatus of war in terms of preparedness, weaponry and military equipment in general. Conventional military operations have developed into electronic warfare operations involving the planning and execution of offensive as well as defensive operations. This has facilitated the monitoring of borders, coastlines, territorial and international waters, space and natural resources by means of powerful, ultra-precise radar networks, instead of by land, sea and air patrols, thereby freeing up human, material and temporal resources so as to secure borders against enemy infiltration and guaranteeing the repulsion of any violation of the integrity, security and stability of States or entire regions.

4. The Disarmament Commission and the Security Council are furthering their aim of prohibiting the use of weapons of mass destruction and limiting the scale and type of such weapons by working towards the full implementation of the provisions of the international treaties on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, such as those involving nuclear power and its derivatives, and the prohibition of all means of their proliferation and by endeavouring to create nuclear-weapon-free zones, particularly in those zones that are designated as areas of tension in the East and the West.

5. To nuclear weapons, with their high capacity for destruction, and the chemical, biological and bacteriological weapons that modern military technology has produced, all of which are called weapons of mass destruction because of their use against humankind without regard for their impact on society and on other living beings, i.e., animals and plants, must be added the pollution of the environment and natural and water resources and the resultant destruction and disorder afflicting the entire region, whose effects last for decades, leading to the migration, displacement and dispersal of populations.

6. Despite the fact that the possession of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, has become the chief concern of most alliances and of the great Powers as a means of maintaining the balance of power, leading to the spectre of a devastating nuclear war which threatens the security and stability of those States that cherish peace and do not possess such weapons, the specialized agencies of the United Nations would like to see many areas of tension remain disarmed, temporary monitoring imposed on the States of those regions and those same States prevented from acquiring advanced weapons of this type.

(c) Transport

7. Present-day scientific and technological development in the field of transportation is exemplified by the aircraft industry and by other modern means of transportation of various types, sizes and methods of use. Thus, transport aircraft are used for many purposes, including to transport military forces and equipment to areas of tension and armed conflict, e.g., to transport United

Nations peace-keeping forces to supervise the monitoring of regional conflicts, to protect civilians or to establish safe areas. They are also used for speedy response in search-and-rescue operations, medical evacuations and provision of relief to countries stricken by natural disasters. This applies proportionately to other means of transportation such as ships and rapid trains and land carriers. Accordingly, we find that scientific and technological development in the field of transportation is virtually the backbone for linking remote parts of the world and making the planet Earth a small village.

2. Conclusion

8. The view of the State of Qatar on scientific and technical development is that we are in accord with the course taken by scientific progress as long as it is used for the benefit of humankind and the pursuit of its happiness. Qatar shares this view with its fellow members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and with other States that cherish peace and international security and stability. This view has been summed up in the foregoing paragraphs.

9. Qatar strongly opposes the use of this scientific progress while all States do not abide by the binding international covenants and treaties that they have signed; the strongest possible sanctions should be imposed on States that violate the provisions of those treaties or use such internationally prohibited weapons in local, regional or international armed conflicts and thus cause serious damage and instability in areas of tension, particularly where it is impossible to impose control over the situation when one of the parties to the conflict uses an advanced weapon classified among the weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear or biological/bacteriological weapons. Such acts go against nature, all divine missions, regional and international regimes and covenants, national constitutions, the principles of human rights, customs, and the norms established by international law in its modern history.

UKRAINE

[Original: Russian]

[20 July 1995]

New scientific and technological progress in the military sphere plays a significant role in both the reinforcement and potential destabilization of international security.

Strengthening effective international monitoring of the proliferation of technologies, material and "know-how" that can be used for military purposes and the production of weapons of mass destruction and destabilizing types of weapons has currently become a topical issue. Ukraine is prepared to participate as an equal partner in coordinated international efforts to prevent the export of such technologies. It is therefore giving serious consideration to the negotiations on the extension of the Missile Technology Control Regime and the Nuclear Suppliers' Group, and the establishment of a new regime based on the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls.

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States have the inalienable right to make use of scientific and technological progress in individual or collective self-defence, as stipulated by the Charter of the United Nations.

Total arms expenditure, including money spent on developing advanced technologies for military purposes, has absorbed considerable human, material and financial resources. States should therefore make additional efforts to exploit these resources for peaceful purposes by converting military sectors to other kinds of production.

Science and technology can encourage the strengthening of international security, for example through the use of scientific progress in implementing disarmament agreements and the introduction of verification measures.

Realizing that the international community is concerned about the possible recruitment of some of our specialists to work on programmes for the development of new types of weapons in other countries, Ukraine is taking steps to prevent this happening. We hope that, in this sphere, substantial assistance will be made available by the Ukrainian Scientific and Technological Centre, established in Ukraine with the involvement of the United States of America, Canada and Sweden, which will make it possible to redirect the potential of Ukrainian scientists involved in military programmes into the development of areas which have major significance for our country, such as the peaceful use of outer space, the development of nuclear power, finding solutions to energy conservation problems, protecting the environment, etc.

States should take appropriate measures to guarantee greater openness in research that could have a dual application, with a view to ensuring that such research is not put to military use. In order to better assess and forecast the impact of science and technology on international security, they have an obligation to share experience and information in this sphere while at the same time reserving the right to protect information which affects their paramount national security interests.

Notes

1/ A/45/568.

2/ Ibid.



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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, prepared pursuant to Assembly resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984.

* A/50/150.



ANNEX

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	3
II. PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK	5 - 70	3
A. Overview	5 - 7	3
B. Economic restructuring	8 - 24	4
C. Sustainable livelihoods	25 - 46	7
D. Building stable lives and healthy communities	47 - 52	11
E. Peace-building and conflict resolution	53 - 57	12
F. Ethical governance and respect for civil society	58 - 70	13
III. ADVOCACY	71 - 86	15
IV. MANAGEMENT	87 - 95	18
V. FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN	96 - 116	20

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report reviews and updates the key elements of the programming framework of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and describes initiatives undertaken by the Fund in 1994. It further touches on the Fund's future directions to meet current challenges and the priorities of women in the twenty-first century.

2. In General Assembly resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, UNIFEM was mandated to act as a catalytic agent on the main United Nations development cooperation system and to support innovative and experimental activities benefiting women. Created to address the economic and social advancement of women, the Fund gives direct technical and financial support to women in developing countries and recognizes and addresses the issues to further women's economic and political empowerment.

3. In supporting activities that benefit women, UNIFEM has been committed to ensuring that women are full participants of the development process both as agents of change and as beneficiaries. By serving as an effective advocate for women, UNIFEM brings the gender component to every aspect of the development agenda.

4. The scope of the Fund's operations and representation through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country offices enable it to broker partnerships at the grass-roots, national, regional and international levels. Its strong base within the international women's movement, its experience in capacity-building rather than service delivery, in linking the macro-level with micro-level organizations and in creating innovative and catalytic ways of working with women, give the Fund a special role to play in implementing the recommendations of United Nations world conferences.

II. PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

A. Overview

5. In order to promote the key issues that women themselves envision and are seeking to advance, UNIFEM has developed a programme framework, the Women's Development Agenda, which is based on the principle of social justice and addresses women's basic rights to sustainable livelihoods and secure lives. The Agenda has two principal elements: (a) the economic empowerment of women in order for them to claim their entitlement to and control over productive resources; and (b) the political empowerment of women by enabling them to reorient and reshape policies and decisions through their active and full participation in decision-making, actions, organizations and institutions.

6. In supporting women's economic empowerment as one of the main tenets of the Women's Development Agenda, UNIFEM has focused its policy and programme priorities in three specific areas: (a) economic restructuring; (b) sustainable livelihoods; and (c) building stable lives and healthy communities. UNIFEM pursues the political empowerment of women through policy and programme support

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in two key areas: (a) peace building and conflict resolution; and (b) ethical governance and respect for civil society.

7. Under its mandate and through its capacity to operationalize the vision that is promised by the women's development agenda, UNIFEM has continued to build its advocacy role and pursue partnerships with other actors in the private and non-profit sectors, as well as with governmental agencies, and has continued to move upstream on the micro-macro continuum by drawing from experience gained at the grass-roots level and using that experience to promote change at the macro level. The Fund has also built its capacity for intellectual leadership and generation of knowledge on gender equality issues and has served as a clearinghouse for ideas, information and lessons learned.

B. Economic restructuring

8. While a shift in the development process to focus on the basic needs and entitlement of the poor is under way, this has yet to fully incorporate issues of gender equity. The Women's Development Agenda calls for a fundamental change in development thinking, planning and practice to redirect the pattern and pace of economic growth and redistribute the benefits and costs of growth in gender-equitable ways. The Agenda therefore places gender equity at the centre of a new development process that would benefit women and men equally, and acknowledges that in the search for alternative development approaches, women's perspectives and realities need to be fully recognized.

9. The thrust of the Fund's assistance to African women is to promote food and income security by supporting women's access to agricultural resources, training and research, and by increasing the awareness of policy makers of the key roles of women in the economy.

10. Structural adjustment programmes and their implications for women's activities in the Africa region are a matter of priority concern. UNIFEM seeks to respond both to the problems and opportunities presented by those programmes. In those cases where women's livelihoods have come under pressure owing to spending cuts in the social sector or lost income-earning opportunities, UNIFEM has funded a number of innovative initiatives that support women's own survival strategies. It also has tried to find ways of assisting women to respond on an equal basis with men to new investment and employment opportunities opened up as a result of privatization.

11. Through its trade and industry programme, UNIFEM aims to help women gain access to growing regional and local markets and to promote cross-border trade and exchange. Based on the findings of studies on cross-border trade in the Gambia, Nigeria and Senegal, national workshops were organized to facilitate dialogue between women traders, business women, national economists, lawyers and customs officials, and to introduce women's perspectives on policy changes to ensure their livelihoods. In Senegal, the workshop provided an opportunity for media organizations, such as Inter Press Services, to raise awareness of women's economic constraints and also of their potential as agents of change within a changing global economic environment.

12. In the United Republic of Tanzania, following the successful delivery of credit to grass-roots women entrepreneurs, the UNIFEM project "Credit scheme for productive activities of women", in collaboration with the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and UNDP, has assisted the Government to consolidate and sustain project achievements. A strategic planning workshop established a process for local financial institutions to take over the revolving loan fund established through the project. DANIDA is drawing on the project experience to develop similar credit delivery systems that will promote women's economic empowerment. UNDP and UNIFEM also aim to use the project experience as a basis for strengthening the capacity of the women's ministries in the United Republic of Tanzania to incorporate and implement policies that are sensitive to gender issues.

13. In accordance with its mainstreaming mandate, UNIFEM has supported capacity-building for Governments and other mainstream organizations in applying a gender perspective in development policy formulation and planning.

14. In Morocco, UNIFEM funded a women in development unit within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in response to the Government's plan to improve the status of Moroccan women and to involve them in social and economic development efforts. The unit has been an effective advocate for women's programmes and has facilitated dialogue between governmental departments, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and donors.

15. In southern Africa the UNIFEM Southern African Development Community (SADC) women in development programme, co-funded with the Canadian International Development Authority (CIDA), has supported the mainstreaming of gender into policy, programmes and projects within the States members of SADC.

16. In Asia and the Pacific, in the wake of economic restructuring and globalization, women stand to be greatly affected by changes in the economic systems and by technological advances in agriculture and industry. Recognizing that development planning is a critical process through which Governments define national goals and strategies, UNIFEM has supported a number of catalytic initiatives in this area.

17. In Viet Nam, training workshops and courses provided through the project entitled "A participatory approach to gender-responsive policy research: strengthening the role of women in Viet Nam's development" have increased gender awareness among planners and administrators of development programmes and projects as well as social scientists pursuing research on women's issues.

18. The strengthening of institutional mechanisms for development planning at the grass-roots, national and regional levels was achieved through the Pacific mainstreaming project, an activity funded jointly with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). At present in its second phase, the project outputs have included the development of a manual on advocacy for women at the grass-roots level; strengthening the capacity of the South Pacific Commission to provide technical and advisory services in gender-responsive development planning; a gender training course for planners and statisticians in Tuvalu and the Cook Islands; networking with other

development institutions; and assistance to the participating countries to raise additional funds for mainstreaming.

19. Recognizing that gender-responsive development planning is most effectively achieved when based on statistics that incorporate gender issues, UNIFEM has funded jointly with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) a regional project to establish gender-responsive statistical systems in six countries. Executed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), innovative activities under the project have included organizing "user-producer" workshops in India, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, and the preparation of reports on priority gender issues and indicators for Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. In China, the State Statistical Bureau completed the booklet "Women and men in China: facts and figures, 1995" for dissemination at the Fourth World Conference on Women. In Indonesia, the project brought together heads of provincial statistical offices, heads of data-processing centres of sectoral ministries and researchers of government and non-governmental institutions to coordinate the production of gender statistics by sectoral ministries.

20. In Latin America and the Caribbean, structural adjustment programmes and new trade agreements have grave consequences for women in the region, in particular in the small island developing States of the Caribbean. In collaboration with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), ECLAC and other United Nations agencies, the UNIFEM programme in the Caribbean has therefore focused on assisting the design of policies that are more gender sensitive. The programme includes gender training for development planners and policy makers who influence public opinion, as well as women in leadership positions. Emphasis has also been given to sensitizing mainstream media.

21. One of the Fund's main partners in the subregion is the Women and Development Unit of the University of the West Indies. The University operates on the principle of working through intermediary organizations and establishing linkages between international, national and local activities that promote gender and development. The UNIFEM-funded project, "Communities organizing for self-reliance", has contributed to strengthening those linkages and enabled partners at each level better to define their appropriate roles.

22. The Fund's long partnership with the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB) in mainstreaming women's concerns and participation in economic development has continued in 1994 through the project "Financial services for women micro-entrepreneurs". The project has focused on the identification and dissemination of cost-effective technologies and institutional structures for expanding access and benefits of financial services to low-income women entrepreneurs in six countries. The results of the project have provided inputs to a forum on women and development, organized by IDB with UNIFEM support at Guadalajara, Mexico, where structural adjustment and development policies were discussed by decision makers and leaders in the region.

23. In 1994, UNIFEM continued to develop its global programme on international trade in response to a number of fundamental changes in the global trading system, their uneven impact on people's lives and livelihoods, and the growing concern of women's groups about the gender-differentiated impact of trade

liberalization and the barriers faced by women in participating in the trade policy-making process.

24. During the year, UNIFEM was heavily involved in planning a series of regional seminars on engendering trade policies, attended by women's organizations and policy makers from all of the major free trade areas and economic groupings. The seminars were planned as the direct result of a global expert meeting on women and trade organized by UNIFEM in New York in 1993. A major finding of the meeting was that circumstances varied so much between regions that issues, strategies and action plans needed to be discussed at much greater depth at the regional level.

C. Sustainable livelihoods

25. The Women's Development Agenda addresses the need for public policies to be based on an understanding of the women's roles in maintaining the sustainability and renewability of natural resources. It is critical that decision makers be aware of the different ways that men and women produce, consume and develop coping strategies for survival. Recognizing that women's livelihood needs and realities must form the basis on which resource use and allocation is decided, UNIFEM is committed to gender equity as a means of ensuring environmental and social sustainability.

26. In Africa, UNIFEM is responding to the need to promote sustainable livelihoods by addressing the issue of food security. Considering that the burden of food production for domestic consumption falls mainly on women, food and income security is the central goal of UNIFEM work in the region. Accordingly, the majority of projects which the Fund supports are in the agricultural sector with an extension into industrial agro-processing. The strategy is to combine in one project ecological, socio-economic and scientific considerations, as well as policy support needed to make the project successful, sustainable and founded on community participation.

27. In Cameroon, women of the Pouma district devote hours of back-breaking labour to harvest and process the cassava crop. With UNIFEM support, technicians from Ghana have helped over 50 Cameroonian women's groups that produce cassava to construct and maintain a central cassava-processing plant. A more efficient processing technique has reduced the women's workload and increased their profit margin. Run by AID Cameroon, a local urban-based non-governmental organization made up of women scientists, women economists and businesswomen, the project has empowered women farmers by helping them to enter the formal production and marketing network that supplies the cities and by giving them access to new skills.

28. UNIFEM has continued its support for the project, "Kusoma: promoting self-reliance for women", in South Africa, funded in collaboration with Tototo Home Industries of Kenya, the Fund for a Free South Africa and World Education. Thirty South African women's organizations have each sent representatives to participate in leadership and organizational skills training, following which the women have been able to serve as active resource persons for their own organizations. The project's ultimate goal is to establish strong local corps

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of women trainers with the capacity to offer training in leadership and business management workshops to women's groups all over the country.

29. Environmental degradation poses the greatest challenge to women who are the main subsistence farmers in Asia. The task of maintaining sustainable livelihoods is becoming more difficult as the resource base for food, water and fuel continues to be depleted. To address this challenge UNIFEM has continued to assist peasant women and other women's groups in bringing their environmental concerns to the attention of decision makers.

30. Building upon the successes of national summit meetings for peasant women in 1991, UNIFEM has continued to support follow-up activities in the region. In south India, a regional workshop was organized in collaboration with the International Federation for Women in Agriculture and the National Academy of Agricultural Research and Management. One hundred peasant women from various States met with planners and implementors of environmental policies. Jointly they drew up local plans to address the use of pesticides, water pollution, deforestation and the destruction of paddy lands.

31. In Pakistan, the UNIFEM project, "Radio programme on food technology for rural women", executed by the AURAT Foundation, a non-governmental organization, has broadcast messages on agriculture and health for women in over 1,000 villages. Through 300 listening centres, the project was able to link rural women to agricultural extension, technology, training and credit institutions. The project is being upscaled with support from CIDA, which provided funds to expand the radio programme to 500 listening centres. In addition, the Government has provided a grant to AURAT to sustain its work on environmental issues.

32. In Nepal, as a result of a follow-up consultation to the national summit for peasant women, the National Planning Commission has adopted a policy to make land available to women for agricultural experimentation with a variety of crops and agricultural technologies.

33. Related to those initiatives, UNIFEM has supported a regional project, "Women and pesticides: training and education", which has included 12 workshops in eight countries on the issue of women and pesticides. Funds were provided for the translation of pesticide resource materials into eight languages and case-study research on the impact of pesticides on women in six countries. These resource materials and case-studies are serving as effective tools for awareness-raising among women farmers and as basis for policy-making aimed at minimizing risks and finding alternative solutions to environmental problems.

34. In Brazil, UNIFEM has focused on providing support to initiatives that promote women's involvement and leadership and create sustainable livelihoods through four interrelated projects. In one project, "Contribution of women to the development of public policies on the environment", a seminar was organized for environmental groups to raise awareness on issues related to development, population and environment. In the second project, "Income-generation using non-polluting technologies", a women's group, the Association of Women from Mato do Rio Bonito, was trained to produce, prepare and store medicinal and seasoning herbs and staple foods. The third project, "Experimental school of

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environmental education for women", organized four separate workshops on mastering the use of radio, project evaluation, developing physical and mental health through nutrition, and paper recycling. Under a fourth project, "Women communications and environment", radio programmes were broadcast and training activities implemented.

35. Another key strategy towards promoting sustainable livelihoods is to assist women in identifying, developing and implementing income-generation activities. These projects are initially supported at the micro level; however, the long-term objective is to upscale such initiatives into more profitable means of livelihood.

36. A UNIFEM project in Mongolia has strengthened the capacity of the Mongolian Women's Federation successfully to implement an integrated approach to enterprise development involving training, technical support and management of a revolving loan fund that has helped women establish viable businesses. To ensure the sustainability of the project, UNIFEM organized a strategic planning workshop to assist the Federation in defining its long-term objectives as an organization and the strategies to fulfil its goals.

37. Following baseline studies and gender-awareness training under the project "Strengthening institutions for enterprise development for Arab women" in Jordan and Lebanon, strategic planning workshops were organized for 25 representatives from institutions and 10 women entrepreneurs from each country. The project provided technical assistance to selected institutions to improve their capacity for programme implementation and for mobilizing resources from national, regional and international sources.

38. The UNIFEM-supported project "Women and micro-enterprise development in Jamaica" has identified the range and types of micro-enterprise activities run by women in Jamaica, determined the factors that contribute to enterprise growth or stagnation within the context of the country's structural adjustment programme and increased institutional support for the sector. A gender analysis of macroeconomic policies that can be used as a basis for dialogue with public and private decision makers has also been carried out.

39. In Cuba, UNIFEM has supported efforts by the Federación de Mujeres Cubanas to create employment opportunities for women in the marble industry. Utilizing discarded and waste marble, women have been trained to use the latest technologies available and are producing small items such as ashtrays, vases, cigar boxes and ornaments intended for the tourist market.

40. Credit and economic participation are central to each of the areas under the Women's Development Agenda. Accordingly, the focus of the Fund's global work in credit and development finance is to create an enabling environment for ensuring that the full range of financial tools - savings, loans and other types of financing - are available to poor rural and urban women producers.

41. Through ACCIÓN, an international non-governmental organization working in Latin America, UNIFEM has increased women's access to credit through the project "Credit for women in the informal sector". UNIFEM assistance has developed the capacity of non-governmental institutions in four countries to become

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sustainable credit organizations capable of meeting the needs of an expanding client base; strengthened the network of affiliates in Latin America in areas of gender, management, strategic planning and human resource development; and influenced the broader community of development practitioners and policy makers regarding women and credit.

42. A global workshop on women and credit was organized for project managers of micro-enterprise projects for the first time in Amman. The participants learned project management techniques and how to adapt innovative credit methodologies, and examined factors that affect gender strategies. A training manual, "A question of access", published by UNIFEM, reflects the approaches and lessons learned from organizing the global workshop and three regional workshops held during 1992 and 1993.

43. In its continued effort to sensitize the banking and financial sector to gender issues and concerns, UNIFEM organized a four-day workshop on gender sensitization for managers of banks and financial institutions, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Management Development Centre, Dhaka. The workshop focused on providing an opportunity for officials from 26 banks and financial institutions and 5 non-governmental organizations working in micro-credit to understand the need for alternative ways of delivering credit to low-income women.

44. Science and technology have the potential to improve women's livelihoods by decreasing their workloads, improving their health, increasing their employment opportunities and conserving the environment.

45. In Asia and the Pacific, a UNIFEM project convened a workshop of 26 non-governmental organizations that produced a report on women workers' views of the impact of technological changes on women's industrial employment. At the workshop the women workers also developed plans of action to negotiate for women's equal access to technology-related skill training for future jobs. The women's recommendations were subsequently discussed in a meeting of government policy makers on industrial policies for the twenty-first century: new technology and women's work.

46. In collaboration with the International Women's Tribune Centre, UNIFEM has been instrumental in the formation of a global network to bring science and technology to the forefront of the Women's Development Agenda and to promote an approach to science and technology that addresses people's basic needs and environmental concerns. A series of planning meetings and an extensive information exchange led to the organization of the Once and Future Action Network. This growing network comprises over 50 international, regional and national organizations and networks. Through UNIFEM support, a programme secretariat was established in Jamaica, hosted by the Third World Organization for Women in Science. The secretariat has consolidated and expanded the network, finalized the preliminary guide on "Who is doing what in women, science and technology", and produced the first Once and Future Action Network newsletter.

D. Building stable lives and healthy communities

47. One of the key challenges of our times is to build stable lives and healthy communities amidst the flux of massive population movements now occurring both within and between States. In this context, it is vital to ensure the everyday security and well-being of ordinary people whose lives are disrupted by massive and sudden changes dictated by global and national events beyond their control. Under the Women's Development Agenda framework, UNIFEM is promoting the social reintegration and rebuilding of stable lives for women affected by population movements and is also addressing some of the root causes of human displacement, environmental degradation, land loss and poverty.

48. In Mozambique, for example, civil war and the out-migration of men to work in South Africa have undermined the lives of the women of Machel village, in the north-west of the country. Since 1989, UNIFEM has supported a project to assist female heads of household, who form a majority in the village. Building on indigenous technologies already used by the women, the project introduced improved ploughs, hoes, seeds, grinding mills and manual water pumps. As a result, food production in the village was quadrupled and the quality of life of the women was enhanced. The women now keep the surplus maize for the next season and sell beans to generate enough income to repay credit and meet other needs. In addition, their workload has decreased significantly and they now have time for language courses, primary education and management training.

49. In the Asia/Pacific region, UNIFEM efforts are directed to the social integration of women in post-war society. In Cambodia, UNIFEM has collaborated with UNDP to ensure the introduction of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Resettlement and Reintegration Programme (CARERE), by supporting a gender-in-development expert within the programme. As a result, CARERE staff have been trained in gender issues, and a gender strategy paper prepared by the expert now forms an important policy document and training resource for CARERE. As a result of the increased gender awareness of government officials, female heads of household are now being included in skill training for non-traditional activities such as marble sculpturing and fish farming.

50. In Western Asia, a participatory rapid appraisal was conducted in the West Bank to identify the psychological problems and needs of disadvantaged Palestinian women and to design a plan for local groups to address those needs.

51. Through collaboration with the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA), UNIFEM contributed to building more stable lives for women in Central America. The project, "Support to women's activities within CIREFCA", has fostered inter-agency cooperation, established linkages with non-governmental organizations and identified problems faced by displaced women as well as obstacles encountered by government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system. By providing training, the project has aimed at introducing a gender perspective into activities for protection assistance, development, shelter, return, reintegration and displacement.

52. A recent evaluation pointed out the important role played by UNIFEM in establishing linkages between non-governmental organizations and national

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Governments in several Central American countries. In El Salvador, the project "Introduction of the concept of gender-into-development projects" supported gender-focused training for employees of the Ministry of Planning and other government agencies during the process of national reconstruction. A similar project has been initiated in Mexico, in cooperation with the SOLIDARIDAD Programme developed by the Government.

E. Peace-building and conflict resolution

53. Peace is a necessary condition for the personal security of all persons and is a prerequisite for sustainable livelihoods, for stable lives and for healthy communities. The Women's Development Agenda seeks to address this critical development challenge by assisting in the protection of women's lives in situations of conflict and instability.

54. UNIFEM continues to respond to the needs of African women in crisis situations through its programme "The African women in crisis umbrella programme". The programme has three main components: mainstreaming gender concerns in areas of emergency policy-making and programming; providing direct support to catalytic activities to increase the capacity of refugee and displaced women to articulate their needs and priorities; and developing a knowledge base on women in emergency, rehabilitation and development within the region. Through the programme, UNIFEM has formed partnerships with emerging African women's peace initiatives and networks in order to build a strong women-led coalition for peace and development.

55. Particularly significant among the activities under the programme have been support for an African women's peace mission to Rwanda and Burundi, promoting dialogue between southern and northern Sudanese women; and organizing a series of 15 peace and reconciliation workshops for youth and women in western Kenya. In 1994, the programme was supported by the Government of Sweden to implement the project, "Integrated approach to community-based reproductive health care, trauma management and quality of life improvement project for displaced Rwandese women". Initiatives under this project focus on providing health care services to women and assisting their organizations through skills training and support to income-generating activities.

56. With funding from the United States Committee on Refugees, and in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee, the African women in crisis programme has also provided skill training and psychosocial health care to Liberian refugees in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, the Government of Italy has joined UNIFEM in providing assistance to Mozambican women refugees in Zimbabwe.

57. The project "Integration of women into development for populations affected by conflict: Chalatenango" in El Salvador demonstrates how UNIFEM has played a role in raising awareness to gender-differentiated needs in reconstructing communities after long periods of war and instability. The project has been a joint effort by UNIFEM, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other United Nations agencies to provide land, credit, improved agricultural techniques and marketing services to women. The participation of

UNIFEM at the early stages of this six-year project contributed to the planning and design of gender-responsive strategies and to filling the needs of peasant women in the development of their region.

F. Ethical governance and respect for civil society

58. Policies emerging from systems of good governance are more responsive and accountable to the livelihood needs and realities of women and their communities. Through the Women's Development Agenda, UNIFEM is contributing to the promotion of ethical principles of governance, the strengthened role of civil society and accountability to legal instruments that advance the status of women and have been endorsed by the international community. It is important that Governments and international agencies uphold the commitments made to women and develop and implement global economic policies in such a way that their negative impact on women is minimized.

59. To support the process of democratization and concern for ethical governance, UNIFEM organized a regional seminar in Benin, in September 1994, for representatives of women's national mechanisms from 12 African countries. The meeting addressed women's participation in the political process and identified country-level institutions that can best advocate for and serve women's needs.

60. UNIFEM has also provided support to national non-governmental organizations and networks working on issues of violence against women, legal literacy and women's participation in the political process. UNIFEM's advocacy work on those issues has been organized jointly with African Women in Law and Development, the Association of African Women for Research and Development and with international partners, including OXFAM America.

61. In Thailand, UNIFEM was instrumental in supporting a national drive to amend the constitution in order to guarantee women's rights. A pamphlet proposing six different versions of the constitutional amendment was produced together with postcards to encourage citizens to petition legislators to vote for their amendment of choice. In October 1994, the parliament voted unanimously to support an amendment to article 24 of the Thai constitution, which now states:

"Men and women have equal rights. Any actions limiting equal rights and freedoms is unconstitutional and not permissible."

62. In India, UNIFEM funded a series of dialogues with activists and representatives of grass-roots political institutions or "panchayats" and non-governmental organizations and academia in five regions of the country. The dialogues promoted women's awareness about the constitutional amendment mandating a one-third reservation for women in all political bodies up to the district level and highlighted women's concerns in mainstream political structures.

63. In Cambodia, follow-up initiatives to a women's summit supported by UNIFEM have provided 17 new women's non-governmental organizations with the skills to influence the first general elections ever held in the country. The

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non-governmental organizations have effectively advocated for women's participation in the political process by disseminating information on the vote and through the publication of the magazine Cambodian women's voice. UNIFEM also supported a study tour to Thailand for representatives of the Cambodian women's movement in order to strengthen the movement's grass-roots organizing abilities and its participation in the NGO Women in Development Symposium at Manila leading up to the regional preparatory conference for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

64. The Fund has also supported capacity-building, leadership training and management skills for women's non-governmental organizations in Latin America, through the "Gender relations and institutional development" project. Under the project, technical assistance has been provided by the Nucleus of Studies on Women and Public Policies of the Brazilian Institute for Municipal Administration to restructure and provide management training to Rede Mulher, a Brazilian non-governmental organization, and to Flora Tristan, a Peruvian organization.

65. In Latin America and the Caribbean, violence against women is viewed by the women in the region as a major obstacle to development. The elimination of violence is therefore a priority within the women's human rights framework. Given those concerns, UNIFEM has supported the organization of a Latin American and Caribbean network opposing violence against women coordinated by ISIS International, a women's information and communication service. The Fund has also supported initiatives at the national level to bring about changes in legislation and policy, strengthen the mechanisms of civil society to deal with the problem of violence against women, promote research and support the reorganization of structures such as the police departments for women and reception centres for battered women.

66. Through joint collaboration, UNIFEM, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) organized a regional seminar on police institutions and women's human rights at Quito. The seminar aimed to strengthen police response to cases of violence against women and created an opportunity for dialogue for members of the police forces from different countries in South America. As a result of the seminar, a programme on violence against women in the Andean region, designed to support national efforts to revise laws and public policy related to the issue, was launched. A similar project is being coordinated by the Mexican network, Fight Against Violence Against Women (COVAC). Activities include training to educate community-based development workers about issues of sexual and family violence.

67. In line with the Fund's priority to support women's equal participation in governance and in civil society, UNIFEM has supported the Center for Research and Feminist Action (CIPAF) to undertake groundwork to promote affirmative action programmes and women's participation in the political process in the Dominican Republic. As a result, the CIPAF team, composed of academics, educators and social organizers, has been more effective in reaching out to women from diverse educational and social backgrounds.

68. The UNIFEM project "Gender assistance to parliamentarians" coordinated by the Service for Information and Research on Women, a non-governmental

organization in Paraguay, has focused on legal analysis and revision of laws affecting women's rights. The group has also promoted dialogue among policy makers and civil society. A project with similar aims was developed by the Feminist Centre for Research and Consultation in Brazil.

69. Over the past two years, the Fund's approach to sustainable human development has increasingly integrated activities that support and promote women's human rights. The Fund's women's human rights programme is a global initiative that aims to strengthen the capacity of women's organizations that work in the area of human rights; to increase the accessibility of the international human rights machinery to women; and to work with Governments and communities to protect the human rights of women. Following its contribution to mainstreaming women's human rights at the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna, the Fund has participated in meetings of the Subcommission for Human Rights at Geneva and has assisted in the formulation of two resolutions by the Commission for Human Rights, one on the mainstreaming of the human rights of women and the other on violence against women. The Fund has also advocated for the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women by the Commission for Human Rights.

70. As part of UNIFEM efforts to strengthen inter-agency coordination in the area of women's human rights, the Fund has provided ongoing support to the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and works closely with its focal point for the human rights of women. UNIFEM has also collaborated with the Child's Rights Section of UNICEF to produce an information kit on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The kit is being used as an advocacy tool by non-governmental organizations, the media and women human rights activists.

III. ADVOCACY

71. One of the Fund's comparative advantages is its special mandate to act as a catalyst for mainstreaming gender issues in the development process and to support innovative activities that meet the real needs and priorities of women. In pursuing that role, UNIFEM has engaged a certain amount of its human and material resources for advocacy work in a wide variety of settings and with a wide spectrum of development partners. Specifically, its advocacy work has focused on four constituencies: (a) the United Nations and other development organizations; (b) participants in global meetings and conferences; (c) civil society and the women's movement at large; and (d) beneficiaries and Governments in programme countries.

72. UNIFEM has undertaken advocacy work for the mainstreaming of gender issues in multilateral development institutions. In particular, UNIFEM has supported the work of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Direct support to the Commission has been provided through UNIFEM inputs to activities of the United Nations system on gender, science and technology. The Fund has also provided indirect support by linking the Commission with women's networks such as the Once and Future Action Network.

73. Another example of UNIFEM work on mainstreaming gender is the ongoing collaboration with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat. In 1992, UNIFEM identified the Department's coordination mechanism for humanitarian assistance as an entry point for UNIFEM's catalytic efforts to integrate gender concerns within the United Nations system and seconded a staff member to the Department. One outcome of the UNIFEM/Department collaboration has been the development of field guidelines for operational organizations to design and implement more gender-responsive activities. The guidelines have been shared with non-governmental organizations, the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and other partners in the field of humanitarian assistance. The experience of seconding a UNIFEM staff member to the Department has confirmed that attention to gender issues in emergency situations results in a more efficient and effective response.

74. Through its umbrella programme, "African women in crisis", UNIFEM also works in close consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, other United Nations agencies and international and local relief organizations. Through this programme, UNIFEM has advocated for gender-specific national and regional legislation to incorporate international refugee laws that provide increased protection for refugee and internally displaced women.

75. Following the Fund's successful advocacy work at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, UNIFEM joined with other organizations at the International Conference on Population and Development to raise international awareness that women's empowerment is central to population policies and development goals. During the International Conference on Population and Development, UNIFEM played a brokering role between women's non-governmental organizations and the media, and in cooperation with the International Women's Health Coalition and the Global Campaign for Human Rights advocated for the inclusion of women's health and women's rights in the programme of action of the Conference.

76. UNIFEM advocacy work not only tries to bring women's concerns to centre stage during United Nations world conferences, but extends support to women and to non-governmental organizations to enable them to participate in conference processes for negotiation and policy-setting. Accordingly, the Fund supported the participation of non-governmental organizations, community project managers, academics and media specialists in two three-day workshops coinciding with the Preparatory Committee meetings prior to the World Summit for Social Development. The workshops were organized to prepare inputs for the Summit around its core themes.

77. As a further contribution to preparations for the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, UNIFEM developed a substantive position paper on how poverty, employment and social integration policies relate to and affect women. The document was circulated as a conference paper to delegations at the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee, in August 1994.

78. UNIFEM places great value in its ongoing relationship with the women's movement, which has contributed to shaping the policies and working methodologies of the Fund. In turn, UNIFEM has helped advance issues of concern

to women by initiating the formation of coalitions, consortia and networks in specialized areas such as credit and finance, science and technology and human rights.

79. For example, UNIFEM has facilitated the formation of a working group, the International Coalition on Women and Credit, which seeks to advance policies that provide women with better access to financial services. The Coalition, representing more than 200 affiliated organizations worldwide, has received UNIFEM support to raise awareness of credit and micro-lending to women entrepreneurs and producers. Its members have developed innovative lending methodologies that respond to the needs of their clients.

80. Through its advocacy programme, UNIFEM has strengthened its in-house capacity to document, publish and disseminate its experiences of working with and for women. In collaboration with the International Women's Tribune Centre, a marketing and distribution service, Women, Ink, catalogues and distributes UNIFEM publications, as well as other materials produced by and for women in developing countries.

81. UNIFEM has produced a range of advocacy materials focusing on Africa, including: a networking newsletter, Kipok (a Masai word meaning "we shall prevail or overcome"); a 30-minute video film, "Dignity: African women in crisis", highlighting coping strategies of Eritrean, Ethiopian, Mozambican, Liberian, Somali and Sudanese women in emergency and crisis situations; and a booklet entitled "Survival: African women in crisis". These materials have been made available to international organizations and women's networks working on peace issues.

82. Another publication, "Connecting across cultures and continents: Black women speak out on race, identity and development", was the result of collaborative work between the African and Latin American sections of UNIFEM. It presents the outcomes of a series of UNIFEM-sponsored panels at the Fifth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women involving Black women from Africa, the Caribbean, Brazil and North America. This publication has brought visibility to the global Black Women's Network and has brought the experiences of the network to development discussions at the United Nations.

83. The UNIFEM publication, "The human cost of women's poverty: perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean", promotes a better understanding of gender relations in society, their implications in policy-making and in bringing about change for a more equitable society. By describing how women and men in similar socio-economic and cultural circumstances experience poverty in very different ways, the book has contributed to a better understanding of the issues taken up by the World Summit for Social Development.

84. An integral part of the Fund's programme on international trade has been the preparation and dissemination of publications and information on gender and global trade issues. The Fund's first trade book, entitled "Women and the new trade agenda", was in production in 1994 and marketed in 1995 through Women, Ink. The book provides an overview of the emerging global trading system and discusses how expanded trade impacts on women's current and future prospects in different environments. In addition, a series of concept and discussion papers

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on women and trade-related questions is under preparation. "Engendering international trade: concepts, policy and action" is the first such paper. These papers will be distributed to policy makers and academics.

85. UNIFEM supported the production of two videos on women's human rights. The first, which has won a number of international awards, is on the Vienna Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights, produced by Augusta Productions, the National Film Board of Canada and the Center for Women's Global Leadership. The second video was produced by Taller Permanente de Comunicación Feminista of Costa Rica on the tribunal held by women's human rights advocates in El Salvador in the context of the Sixth Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Encuentro. These videos, which document the effects of violations of women's human rights on women's lives, are used in classrooms, by human rights, women's and other community organizations and are shown at conferences and other events locally, regionally and internationally.

86. Two issues of the Fund's newsletter, UNIFEM News, were published in 1994. One featured articles relating to population and sustainable development and provided information on women's perspectives and organizing activities in relation to the International Conference on Population and Development. The second issue focused on science and technology for development and reflected the diverse projects and initiatives that UNIFEM is undertaking in that field. With a readership of 20,000 world wide, the newsletter is both an advocacy tool and a vehicle through which UNIFEM documents its projects and lessons learned from its work in developing countries.

IV. MANAGEMENT

87. In early 1994, Ms. Sharon Capeling-Alakija, Director of UNIFEM since 1989, left UNIFEM to join UNDP, where she assumed the newly created position of Director of Evaluation and Strategic Planning. The Deputy Director, Ms. Marjorie Thorpe, then became Acting Director. On 15 August 1994, the Administrator of UNDP appointed Ms. Noeleen Heyzer (Singapore) as the new Director. Since 1984, Ms. Heyzer had been the Programme Coordinator in charge of the Gender and Development Programme in the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

Finance and administration

88. Contributions to the Fund rose gradually from 1991, reaching \$13.87 million in 1994. While government contributions to the Fund's core budget remain strong, at an annual average of \$10 million, cost-sharing and sub-trust fund contributions have shown a significant increase, reflecting donor confidence in UNIFEM activities. Major government contributors in 1994 included Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

89. In 1994 private donations from non-governmental organizations, foundations and individuals also increased. The Fund's efforts to raise funds from these

sources have been greatly assisted by the work of the 16 UNIFEM national committees.

90. In order to reduce its accumulated cash balance, from 1990 into 1994 UNIFEM actively programmed its resources on a partially funded basis. That action, coupled with inadequate management and financial oversight, led to an overprogramming of UNIFEM resources that became known in mid-1994. Strict financial controls were established, all further programming was frozen, budget cuts were made and aggressive resource mobilization efforts were successfully undertaken to avoid falling into cash deficit. As a result, a positive balance of cash resources in excess of \$1 million is projected for the end of 1995. The Executive Board suspended the requirement for an operational reserve until such time as the Fund is in a position to resume full programming activities, after 1997. UNIFEM will continue its dual strategy of requiring strict financial management on the part of all staff, and engaging in vigorous resource mobilization to avoid any threat to its financial integrity in the future.

Monitoring and evaluation

91. In response to the changing needs of the Fund, monitoring and evaluation activities are reviewed on a yearly basis and modified to meet existing needs. To that end, terms of references for key UNIFEM projects to be evaluated over the next two years were formulated in 1994. These terms of references incorporate innovative data-gathering techniques and reflect the Fund's commitment to increasing the participation of project beneficiaries in evaluations.

92. Projects selected for evaluation meet the following criteria: budgets over \$200,000; potential for yielding interesting best practice ideas or lessons; and potential for long-term follow-up in order to assess impact in terms of contribution to sustained changes in women's lives. In 1994 an evaluation was undertaken of the "Andean food technology" project. The evaluation confirmed the important role played by institutions of civil society, in this case women's non-governmental organizations, in delivering development assistance. In addition, by focusing on identification and diffusion of indigenous food-cycle technologies, the project served to highlight women's technical knowledge and technological contributions. Evaluation exercises are planned for the SADC Women in Development programme, the African women in crisis programme and the ACCIÓN project in 1995.

93. The completion of the impact measurement indicators exercise forms an important input to the Fund's general evaluation and programming work. As part of the exercise, a participatory methodology for assessing the impact of development interventions on women was field tested in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Based on that experience a draft manual entitled "Impact Assessment: Participatory Approach" has been developed.

94. With regard to mainstreaming UNIFEM experiences, specific project experiences were compiled to illustrate the linkages between participation and women's empowerment. UNIFEM is a member of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Evaluation and has made substantive contributions to discussions in a paper entitled "Guidelines for evaluating gender issues".

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95. As part of the UNIFEM project "Capacity-building in evaluation", a training workshop was organized in September 1994 for women from non-governmental organizations in UNIFEM programme countries. While this type of training is tailored to meet the UNIFEM goal of gender-sensitizing evaluation approaches in general, the technical aspects of such training are easily incorporated into other types of evaluations and are therefore applicable in a wide range of situations.

V. FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

96. The Fourth World Conference on Women merits specific mention here as it represents a unique opportunity for the international community to cooperate in and create strategies for action to be taken to advance gender equality in all aspects of social, economic and political life. Following the endorsement of the UNIFEM strategy towards the Conference by the UNIFEM Consultative Committee in 1993, the Fund developed Conference-related activities at the international, regional and local levels.

97. The UNIFEM strategy for the Conference has focused on ensuring that the concerns of diverse groups of women are heard during all preparatory activities brokering partnerships between Governments, non-governmental organizations, donors and women's organizations and networks; advocating alternative strategies for gender-responsive development, including mainstreaming; strengthening women's organizations and networks; promoting the equal responsibility of men for advancing gender issues; promoting the visibility of women as leaders and decision makers at the United Nations and in society at large; influencing the structure and mandate of new institutions and mechanisms that may emerge from the Conference; and launching activities that will generate wider public information, awareness and support for it.

98. The above objectives have been pursued through the following mechanisms: identifying key women's non-governmental organizations and networks, both new and well established, and providing them with opportunities to create strategies and participate in all aspects of the preparatory process and in the actual Conference, obtaining funds from various sources to enable UNIFEM to support the participation of grass-roots women in conference preparations; contributing to information-sharing and inter-agency coordination through participation in international and regional meetings related to the Conference; supporting the substantive contributions of non-governmental organizations to the preparation of national reports and the platform for action; producing and disseminating substantive documentation on UNIFEM programme experiences; and developing a media strategy to increase media awareness of women's concerns and the goals of the Conference. Through these modalities, the Fund has supported numerous global, regional and nationally based initiatives in collaboration with agencies of the United Nations system and other development organizations.

99. The Fund has contributed to United Nations system-wide preparations for the Conference, including support to the Division for the Advancement of Women for the organization of expert group meetings in preparation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and to incorporate a youth perspective in the platform for action. Following the Consultative Meeting for

World Youth at Princeton University in February 1994, which UNIFEM co-sponsored with the Division for the Advancement for Women, the Fund participated in the Inter-Agency Group Meeting for Youth Involvement at the Fourth World Conference on Women, convened by the Division for the Advancement for Women. UNIFEM also funded two youth representatives from the South Pacific Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) to participate in the youth consultations during the regional preparatory conference in Jakarta. UNIFEM regional programme advisers also provided administrative and technical assistance to the Division for the Advancement for Women's youth coordinator in organizing the regional youth meetings prior to the other regional preparatory conferences and in drafting the proposed youth amendments to the regional programmes of action.

100. During 1994, UNIFEM also undertook numerous initiatives that have brokered partnerships between Governments and non-governmental organizations and also brought women's organizations into the preparatory process for the Conference. In particular, UNIFEM provided support to national-level preparations leading up to the regional preparatory conferences in Indonesia, Argentina, Jordan and Senegal.

101. In India, UNIFEM played a main coordinating role for the Inter-Agency Facilitation Committee for Beijing, a group formed to disseminate information on the Conference to non-governmental organizations in South Asia and promote non-governmental organization input into the regional programme for action. UNIFEM provided impetus to the national preparation process in Pakistan by bringing together government representatives, non-governmental organizations, researchers and the media to discuss, prioritize and coordinate national activities. UNIFEM funding enabled the Lao Women's Union to extend its National Congress by one day in order to discuss national preparations for the Conference with provincial and district representatives.

102. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNIFEM contributed to the implementation of a Joint Plan of Action by various United Nations agencies. Specifically, the Fund supported the preparation of country profiles and the national report, seminars and workshops and the publication of a newsletter to promote awareness of the issues to be discussed at the Fourth World Conference on Women. UNIFEM also assisted the newly created Bureau of Women's Affairs to enhance its capacity to function as a focal point for national preparations for the Conference.

103. UNIFEM provided support to ESCWA to organize national planning workshops in nine countries of Western Asia. The workshops emphasized a participatory approach involving Governments, academics and non-governmental organizations. In addition, through funding support from the Netherlands Embassy at Cairo, UNIFEM functioned as a focal point for a donor information coordination system for Western Asia. The system was established in response to a need for an information exchange mechanism on donor activities in support of non-governmental organizations in the region.

104. In Argentina, UNIFEM collaborated with UNICEF to sponsor two consecutive meetings of non-governmental organizations to form a national coordinating committee in preparation for the regional preparatory conference. As a follow-up to that initiative, UNIFEM and UNICEF co-sponsored a meeting between

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national non-governmental organization committees from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, where a unified non-governmental organization input to the regional programme for action was drafted.

105. UNIFEM funded and coordinated nine research projects in Mexico to develop non-governmental organization input and plans of action for the regional preparatory conference. UNIFEM further collaborated with UNDP, UNFPA, ECLAC and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in organizing a follow-up national meeting where over 60 Mexican non-governmental organizations presented their action plans.

106. In collaboration with the CARICOM secretariat, UNIFEM organized a second regional preparatory meeting in Antigua to discuss the form and content of the CARICOM national and regional reports. UNIFEM also funded the participation of nine umbrella women's non-governmental organizations at the meeting.

107. A number of UNIFEM initiatives in Africa have focused on providing information and training to women's groups and on raising awareness of priority issues for discussion at the regional preparatory conference at Dakar. In particular, UNIFEM has provided training on United Nations conference preparations to FEMNET, a media non-governmental organization and working partner of UNIFEM. As a result of the training, FEMNET's role in facilitating non-governmental organization preparatory meetings and setting up a coordinating committee of non-governmental organizations in Africa was strengthened.

108. In Nigeria, UNIFEM collaborated with UNDP to establish an inter-agency forum, which increased cooperation among United Nations and other donor agencies and led to greater coordination in the use of scarce resources to support national activities towards Beijing. As a result of the forum, UNICEF and UNFPA coordinated their assistance to national machineries to prepare the national report.

109. A main activity at the regional preparatory conference was the organizing of a Peace Tent, which UNIFEM supported through its African women in crisis programme. This initiative brought together leaders of women's peace movements from areas of conflict around the region and provided a venue for panel discussions on women's perspectives on war and conflict as well as testimonies and performances by young African artists on peace and reconciliation themes.

110. UNIFEM cooperated with the United Nations Economic Commission in Africa (ECA) to produce the official poster for the regional preparatory conference. To raise awareness for the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Fund's regional programme adviser in Dakar also organized poster, cartoon and poetry contests for youth around the themes: "The women of the 21st century are born", "African women, where are you?" and "We shall be women tomorrow".

111. One of the most visible and innovative activities of the UNIFEM-sponsored Once and Future Action Network has been the organizing of the Once and Future Pavilion at the 1995 non-governmental organization Forum on Women in Beijing. The Pavilion will bring together women's groups, technology institutes and development organizations to illustrate women's role in redirecting science and technology to people's basic needs and environmental problems. The visual,

interactive, educational and entertaining dimensions of the activities are planned to appeal to a wide audience, showing that science and technology is for everyone, regardless of age, gender or ability. In September 1994, UNIFEM participated in the preparatory symposium for the NGO Forum on Women, Science and Technology, organized by the China Women's Association for Science and Technology in Beijing.

112. An important component of UNIFEM strategy for the Fourth World Conference on Women has focused on providing women with information and the skills they need to participate more effectively in Conference preparations. To that end, UNIFEM co-published with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service Putting Gender on the Agenda: A Guide to Participating in UN World Conferences. The publication, which is available in English, French and Spanish, has been widely distributed as a tool for women leaders to incorporate their concerns into international decision-making processes.

113. Recognizing the increasing importance of the media as a vehicle for advancing women's perspectives, UNIFEM produced a new press kit to inform the press of the Fund's substantive areas of work in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, and in mainstreaming women's concerns on global issues. The press kit was designed so that it can be supplemented and updated depending on region-specific needs. In addition, a new information kit, including a series of booklets (in English, French and Spanish) on UNIFEM activities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as global activities.

114. In collaboration with the Communication Consortium and Media Center, a media strategy was developed to increase the Fund's capacity to use media as an advocacy tool; expand public awareness of women's development efforts; generate support for the Fourth World Conference on Women; and increase the visibility and media coverage of UNIFEM work. In October, in collaboration with the Center, UNIFEM organized an initiative to launch printed articles on the Conference and on UNIFEM work in 100 women's magazines world wide. Over 75 women's magazines in 29 countries are now participating in the project.

115. In November 1994, UNIFEM placed a special adviser for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The adviser works closely with UNDP, the Government of China, the China Organizing Committee, the Department of Public Information, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Organizing Committee of the NGO Forum and other United Nations agencies and donors, and has contributed to in-country coordination in preparation for the Conference. The adviser has initiated a media campaign to promote the goals of the Conference and has supported the All China Women's Federation in their capacity as organizers and hosts of the NGO Forum. In turn, the Federation has provided UNIFEM with national support staff who are receiving administrative and management training from the UNIFEM adviser.

116. By the time the present report is reviewed by the General Assembly during its fiftieth session, the Fourth World Conference on Women will have been completed. UNIFEM will provide an assessment of the implications of the Conference for its future programme during its presentation to the Third Committee.